Sandwell
CHRONICLE

Thursday, October 22, 2015 | Read by more than 68,000 people | Price when sold 60p

PwC's tough questions over collapse threat to 1,700 jobs

CAPARO CHIEFS FACE GRILLING

Report by Simon Penfold

CAPARO bosses are set to face hard questions about how the £370m-a-year company has come to the point of collapse, putting up to 1,700 jobs at risk – most of them in the Black Country.

And some are questioning whether Caparo's largely unsuccessful venture into building a road-legal supercar may have played a role in its current woes.

A large team from accountants PwC – PricewaterhouseCoopers – is now at work on the administration of Caparo Industries, assessing which parts can be saved and sold.

But some businesses within the group almost certainly face closure, with the loss of potentially hundreds of local jobs.

While the current steel crisis – which on Monday claimed 1,200 more jobs with Tata announcing redundancies in Scunthorpe and Scotland – has been cited as the cause of its woes, that may not be the only factor in the collapse of Caparo Industries.

Affected

Matt Hammond, the lead administrator from PwC, said: "The impact of steel prices and exchange rates has had an impact on some parts of the Caparo Industries group. However there are businesses in the group that are not directly affected by steel prices, and likewise many where there is both strong customer demand and critical supplier support."

Those looking for other factors in the collapse have pointed to the heavy expense of developing the Caparo T1 two-seater sports car. Initially launched in 2007, the plan was to make up to 25 a year with a price tag of more than £200,000 apiece, but the project ran into the recession and it is thought no more than 30 were made.

The sports car business went quiet until an apparent relaunch last year of the Caparo T1 Evolution 'hypercar', this time with a price per car of 1.1 million euros, or £800,000.

But, apart from a few public appearances such as its appearance in police livery as part of a campaign against dangerous driving at the Autocar International show at the NEC in January, nothing more has been heard.

Development of the car, with its carbon/aluminium honeycomb monocoque and use of advanced carbon technology composites, will have been expensive but it does not appear to have produced the sales necessary to cover those costs.

● Shock – Page 12

EMMA'S BRUSH WITH THE PAST FOR PORTRAIT

With her unveiled painting 'New Friends For Alathea', is portrait artist Emma Tooth, at Wednesbury Art Gallery

WHO says modern art cannot be classic too? This is The Sandwell Portrait on display at WednesburyArt Gallery, showing two thoroughly modern young men painted in a 19th century style.

More than 30 local artists and photographers gathered to see the portrait by Derbyshire artist Emma Tooth be revealed at the Holyhead Road gallery – where it will remain until Christmas before taking pride of place at Ingestre Hall, in Stafford.

The unique portrait, officially called 'New Friends for Alathea', depicts two Sandwell College students painted in the same vein as 19th century portraits in Ingestre Hall.

Mrs Tooth, who has been a professional artist for 15 years, said: "I first started the project 18 months ago. I was completely hypnotised when I saw a portrait of Alathea Talbot, Countess of Arundel.

"I worked alongside Sandwell College to find suitable students. It was a challenge, but thoroughly enjoyable.

"I wanted to paint something that would sit beside old paintings but stand out and connect with a modern audience. Especially the young people who go to Ingestre Hall for residential visits too."

In the painting one of the students is pictured looking at their mobile phone. Graffiti on the brickwork which depicts Mrs Tooth's signature is also seen.

Student Kyle Francis, who was studying photography at the college at the time, was chosen to be painted alongside a fellow student – whose identity is yet to be revealed.

The portrait was unveiled on October 14 alongside other collections by local art groups at the gallery.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Combined authority backed by council

SANDWELL councillors have voted unanimously in favour of joining the proposed West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

A full council meeting on Tuesday backed recommendations for Sandwell to become a full constituent member of the combined authority.

The decision follows yes votes from Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Solihull and Wolverhampton councils as constituent members, and various local district councils as well as three Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as non-constituent members in forming the WMCA. To find out more about the WMCA visit www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk

BLAZE

Residents warned over burning tyres

DOZENS of tyres caught fire, sending a plume of thick, black smoke into the Black Country sky. Fire crews were called to the 40 tyres on fire in a car park in Fountain Lane, in Oldbury, on Tuesday at around 5.30pm.

Nearby residents were urged to keep their windows and doors closed. No-one was reported to have been injured in the fire, with crews alerting the police. But it caused traffic delays on Roway Lane, Bromford Road and Kelvin Way.

HALF TERM

Libraries lining up to offer family activities

THERE are over 70 free events and activities next week for half term at Sandwell's 19 libraries.

So whether it's a Mad Hatter's tea party at Wednesbury, a Halloween scavenger hunt at Thimblemill or Minion Crafts at Great Barr there is sure to be something to suit all tastes. There will be special family film clubs as well as PS4 and Xbox1 gaming sessions.

Full details of all our events can be found on the Sandwell Libraries Facebook page or @sandwelllibs on Twitter.

For further information please contact your local library or call 0121 569 4911.

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£2.5m facelift for tower welcomed

Outside Kynaston House

A £2.5 MILLION facelift on a West Bromwich tower block has been welcomed by council chiefs.

Work has started on Kynaston House, in Rydding Lane, getting new windows, balcony doors, new lifts, while the outside of the building is being fitted with insulated cladding to reduce heat loss.

Two new flats will be created on the ground floor, with entrances being remodelled and communal areas decorated. More car parking spaces will also be available and the area surrounding the block will be landscaped.

The council began a high-rise improvement programme in 2005, which has improved 34 tower blocks and a number of homes in Sandwell. The investment is part of a joint commitment made by the council and its project partners Keepmoat, Lovell, Vinci and Wates Living Space, which has created more than 500 new jobs.

The renovations and improvements made to the 11-storey block at Kynaston House, which has 41 flats, will give the 1960s build an extra 30 year lifespan.

Councillor Paul Moore, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for regeneration and economic investment, said: "This is another fantastic example of how we're investing in council homes in Sandwell.

"Not only will this work create better homes for the people living there, it will also lengthen the lifespan and improve the appearance of the building."

The £2.5 million upgrade is being carried out by Keepmoat, which is currently delivering an £11 million refurbishment of The Crofts – three blocks of flats in Windmill Lane, Smethwick.

The refurbishment is set to be completed in late 2016.

M6 bosses admit to lack of communication

HIGHWAYS bosses have admitted they could and should have done more to make people aware of when major roadworks on the M6 would be completed.

The work at junction 9 for Wednesbury has twice been hit by delays.

The southbound sliproad has been closed since January, causing long tailbacks.

At a meeting last week at Wood Green Academy, Wednesbury, campaigners were able to speak to bosses from Highways England, which is carrying out the scheme, who blamed unforeseen circumstances for delaying the waterproofing work on the ageing M6 viaduct.

Company spokesman Jessica Kenny said: "We could have and should have done more to make the public aware of when the work would be completed.

"We've never had a waterproofing scheme of this nature and we've never had to do this many repairs before.

"We weren't aware of the extent of the condition of the motorway and repairs that needed to be done.

"The most damaged areas are over the parts which carry the weight of the viaduct, which is a crucial process to the integrity of the bridge.

Process

"Repairs have had to be done with painstaking precision to prevent the bridge from becoming weak, so this is obviously a time consuming process."

Work is expected to be completed before Christmas. The public had been previously told it would be June, then November.

Claire Williams-Bradley, aged 32, of Wood Green Road, said: "My whole house shakes, I'm woken up in the early hours of the morning pretty much every day due to the noise and work going on.

"The lack of communication has been beyond frustrating."

At the meeting, people were told Highways England is 'committed to managing traffic to retain as much access as possible'. Diversions are currently in place because of the closure.

Wednesbury North councillor Elaine Costigan said: "I called this meeting as the people who are affected by these roadworks have a right to know when Highways England will have this work completed."

Artist Josh puts Bearwood in frame

Josh Whitehouse exhibits a selection of his latest drawings depicting Bearwood through the years at Ooops Gallery

A TALENTED artist with Asperger's wowed crowds with an exhibition highlighting Bearwood's history.

Josh Whitehouse, aged 24, created a selection of works for the show at Oooops Gallery.

They depicted historic scenes from Bearwood's past and were teamed with descriptions from local historian Mary Bodfish. Scores of local residents attended the exhibition and digital artist Josh was delighted with the reaction.

He said: "The whole exhibition was about bringing the community together through a positive means, by retelling the story of Bearwood's history from the 18th and 19th Centuries.

"All the descriptions were based on Mary's stories that was the aim and it seemed to be very successful.

"It was good to see how much the local community respected what we had done."

The varied methods Josh used to create the pieces – which ranged from postcards to more elaborate canvases – gave him the freedom to experiment with different forms.

This allowed him to show off his skills in different forms.

Josh said he could now branch out to other parts of Birmingham to do similar shows shining a light on an area's history in order to preserve it. The former Bearwood Primary School pupil said: My style keeps changing, I'm a diverse artist and this gave me the chance to showcase my range of talent.

Crash girl Cerys left paralysed dies aged 9

A NINE-YEAR-OLD girl left paralysed in 2006 when a millionaire's son ploughed into her family car while doing 70mph in a 30mph zone has died in hospital.

Cerys Edwards was just 11 months old when the car she was in was hit head-on by Antonio Singh Boparan, leaving her paralysed and unable to breathe without a ventilator.

Cerys Edwards

Boparan is the son of Ranjit Singh Boparan, who owns the West Bromwich-based 2 Sisters Food Group and had been driving at 70mph on a 30mph road.

Her devastated father Gareth, from Sutton Coldfield, paid tribute to Cerys and said she had a smile that would 'melt the heart of anyone present'.

After the crash

She is believed to have died following complications after an infection.

Mr Edwards said: "Given her injuries, she never complained and was a joy to be with. She was a very happy little girl whose cheeky smile would melt the heart of anyone present.

"She is and will be sadly missed by all who knew her especially her dad." Boparan, from Sutton Coldfield, could have faced up to 14 years in prison if Cerys had died following the collision.

He served six months of a 21-month sentence after being found guilty of dangerous driving. Only 19 at the time, he was driving on the wrong side of Streetly Lane in Sutton Coldfield in a Range Rover Sport, owned by his parents, when the crash happened. A statement issued on Boparan's behalf following Cerys' death said: "No words can appropriately convey the extent of his sorrow and regret.."

Cerys was awarded £5 million compensation in 2012, along with a guaranteed annual payout of £450,000 to help pay for her annual care bill. The battle to secure the compensation from the insurers took more than five years.

Boparan, now 28, was jailed again earlier this year for his involvement in a Birmingham bar fight, which left one man blind. He pleaded guilty to violent disorder and assault in the VIP room of Brindleyplace's Nuvo Bar last April.

Crews are called out to van blaze

A FIRE broke out in a van that was left in a car park in Oldbury. Two crews were called to Simpsons Street at 12.21pm on Tuesday, October 13, to put out the blaze. Police also attended and the road was closed for around half-an-hour while the crews were on scene.

New Square sees boost of 1m extra shoppers

MORE than a million extra shoppers have flocked to West Bromwich's New Square, delighted bosses have revealed.

Visitor numbers to the shopping centre have shot up by 25 per cent to 5.5 million between January and September compared to 4.1 million in 2014.

It follows the centre's busiest summer which saw a total of 650,000 shoppers flock to the complex each month in June, July and August – 12.5 per cent up on last year.

Plans for two new shops that will open before Christmas, possibly a clothes or food shop, are also in the pipeline.

Centre manager Steve Burr spoke of his joy at how the centre has turned into a major retail and leisure complex in just two years.

"New Square offers a great range of retail and leisure for the people of Sandwell and the surrounding areas, with convenient public transport links and a good road network," he said. "We give people the choice to shop and enjoy themselves locally rather than going to other destinations further afield.

"We have great free events for people with the likes of pop up fashion shows and the summer beach as well as working alongside Sandwell Children's Hospital. We are looking to hopefully have more stores arriving this side of Christmas too. That will leave a couple of units left for the new year which we already have significant interest in."

Church to stage Ayckbourn play

A THEATRE group is rehearsing a play delving into a dysfunctional family Christmas.

All Saints Players will be staging the Alan Ayckbourn comedy Seasons Greetings in West Bromwich next month.

The play begins on Christmas Eve. Harvey and Bernard argue over the violence shown in a film on TV while Neville and Eddie obsess over building remote controlled Christmas Tree lights; all the men largely ignoring their wives. It will be performed at All Saints Church, All Saints Way, from November 10 to November 13.

Shows start at 7.30pm and tickets are £4.50 for adults and £4 with concessions. Call Kath on 0121 588 4786 for tickets. Parking is available.

City pride event tickets on sale

BIRMINGHAM Pride 2016 is taking place next year on Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29. Tickets will go on sale on Friday November 6. More information is available at www.birminghampride.com/

Society's HQ nearing completion

The new building

CONSTRUCTION of the West Bromwich Building Society headquarters is close to completion. The finishing touches are being made to the company's new base in Providence Place, West Bromwich.

Work is expected to finish in the next few days when the focus will then shift to furnishing the inside of the building. It is expected to open before the end of the year.

The modern-looking base, which has been fitted with striking black and white cladding, has risen into the West Bromwich skyline since work began at the end of 2013.

Company spokesman Nick Trueman said: "The construction phase is almost complete. It should be finished in the next couple of weeks. We will then move on to furnishings and getting systems in place."

The West Brom, which unveiled £12.4 million pre-tax profits for 2014-2015 earlier this year, expects to grow its workforce at the new five-storey headquarters by almost half following the move from its base in High Street.

More than 400 staff will be moving into the building. All head office functions will move in including the training which is done in a separate site in the town.

The Black Country's biggest building society's 70,000 sq ft headquarters joins other new buildings that have helped regenerate the town centre in recent years. Bosses had considered relocating to the Point North site at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, before finally deciding on the move a short distance across West Bromwich to the new site close to the £200 million flagship New Square shopping development.

The new building will include state-of-the-art ventilation, heating and lighting control systems to minimise energy consumption. It will also house an administration centre offering direct services for West Brom savings accounts.

Jail for drunk man who slept on railway track

A DRUNK man recklessly fell asleep on a railway track, causing chaos to train services and costing operators more than £40,000 in compensation, a court heard.

Matthew Baddeley told police he believed he was at home when discovered on the line at Smethwick Galton Bridge station, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 33-year-old, from Pendeford, Wolverhampton, escaped unhurt when a train driver spotted him – but his action caused the cancellation of 66 services on May 23.

Matthew Baddeley

It has since cost Network Rail £41,000 in customer compensation.

Baddeley, of Banstead Close, was jailed for a year after pleading guilty to obstructing a carriage on a railway line. Miss Wendy Miller, prosecuting, told the court: "The defendant was found lying on the railway tracks at night by a driver who was passing through Smethwick Galton Bridge. Fortunately the driver stopped the train.

"When police came to investigate he was plainly intoxicated and thought he was at home in Wolverhampton. His actions resulted in £41,000 worth of compensation having to be paid out, 66 cancellations having to be made and significant delays to services."

The court heard how Baddeley has a long list of convictions but none related to obstructing a train track.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending Baddeley, said: "He readily accepts he was intoxicated on the day even though he can't remember it."

Judge Michael Challinor told Baddeley: "The harm caused by your actions is considerable. There has been a loss of revenue to Network Rail which will no doubt find its way around to the rail user eventually."

Network Rail spokesman Jon Crampton said: "This reckless type of behaviour puts lives at risk and causes disruption to passengers. We fully support action against those responsible."

Sergeant Alun Jones from British Transport Police said: "Baddeley's actions put his life and those who had to rescue him from the tracks, at risk."

A police car is seen outside 72, Moncrieffe Street, Walsall, where a body was found on Sunday morning, sparking an investigation

Woman is found dead by officers

THE body of a dead woman was discovered at a terraced house in a Walsall street, sparking a police investigation. Police found the 27-year-old's body at the house in Moncrieffe Street in the early hours of Sunday morning. Officers were called at about 2.40am.

Mother-of-three Shabina Bibi, aged 37, has lived in the street all her life and saw the emergency services arrive in the early hours of yesterday morning. She said: "At about 2.30am I could see the flashing lights outside.

"I looked out and the police were there, but that's nothing new for us around here. You don't want anything like this to happen on your street, it's such a shame. It's made me feel a bit scared to be living here."

Police urged anyone who may have information about the incident to come forward.

Det Insp Harry Harrison from Force CID, who is leading the investigation, said: "I would appeal for anyone who saw anything or has any information to contact police on 101 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Halloween at arboretum

FAMILIES are being invited to attend a Halloween event in aid of a Walsall hospice. Those who attend the fun day, taking place from 12-3pm on October 31 at Walsall Arboretum, will be able to join in with a trick or treat trail, take part in craft activity sessions and various other activities.

All proceeds from the event will go to St Giles Walsall Hospice, a registered charity which provides free specialist care for people living with cancer and other serious illnesses.

Sharon White, fundraising manager for St Giles Walsall Hospice, says: "Our Halloween Fun event promises to be a really special day for the whole family and we are really looking forward to welcoming members of the local community to Walsall Arboretum to raise funds for St Giles Walsall Hospice. In particular, we' re looking forward to seeing some spectacular fancy dress costumes – the spookier the better."

Talks requested in bus campaign

A CAMPAIGN to cut down the number of buses travelling down a residential road is taking a step forward.

Darlaston North Councillor Doug James has spoken to both Centro and National Express on behalf of Stafford Road residents, asking for the number of buses using the road to be reduced.

He has also asked that the double deckers used for the 70 service be banned from going down the road after they were re-routed over the summer. He said he was looking to get the issue addressed at a Centro board meeting.

Get Christmas all sewn up at club

THE Manor House in West Bromwich will be holding a Christmas sewing club.

Sessions will enable people to make soft furnishings to complete their Christmas decor.

This can include cushions, table cloths, table runners, Santa sacks and stockings. There will be two sessions on November 16 and 23 from 6-9pm.

It will cost £20 per person for both sessions including refreshments. This must be paid prior to the start of the first lesson.

This will cover basic materials.

Tobacco seized is worth £2,500

MORE than £2,500 of illicit tobacco has been seized by police during a raid in Smethwick.

Officers discovered the haul in the back of a lorry in the Cape Hill area on Friday.

It comes as part of a wider operation with Sandwell Council's trading standards. Investigations are continuing.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

GREAT headlines of our time: "Ex-zoo worker to be sentenced after glassing monkey keeper love rival." from the Herald Scotland website this week.

FORTY-four per cent of Brits say their ideal home would have its own cinema. Forty per cent are unsure how to pronounce Don Quixote. Twenty per cent say they only drink alcohol on special occasions. One hundred per cent of journalists wonder how we ever managed in the days before surveys.

CALL me a boring old Luddite but I was never convinced that Kindle and suchlike new-fangled interwebbythingy reading devices were any improvement on old-fashioned ink-and-paper books. So what if they can pluck thousands of great novels out of cyberspace? Realistically, how many books can you read at the same time? And if your dog-eared and well-thumbed Jilly Cooper falls into the hotel swimming pool it's not much of a loss, while a dunked £100 e-reader is a disaster. Sure enough, the latest news is that book sales are picking up and Waterstones says that its sales of Kindle are falling. Sanity reigns.

PLAYBOY'S decision to publish no more nude photos, in the face of competition from internet porn sites, has sparked a blizzard of features and columns from various intellectuals alleging that the ultimate US glamour magazine was never all about nudity. They point out that over the years Playboy carried some great features and news reports, commissioning some of the finest writers and photographers of the 20th and 21st centuries. I really can't comment. I only ever bought it for the gardening page.

KATIE Derham is accused of "posing" on Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1). Take the posing out of this show and what's left?

AFTER the recent items on newspaper obituaries, a reader writes: "With regard to obituary notices, I looked again today and was surprised and mildly pleased that my name was not included." That's the spirit.

WE have a solid-fuel boiler at Chateau Rhodes and, because anthracite is expensive, we think long and hard before starting- up the system for the winter. The milder the weather, the later the fire-lighting date. This year I did the deed a couple of days ago, which is at least a fortnight later than most years. I am not sure whether this proves the climate is getting warmer or I am getting meaner.

A SHARP-eared, channel-hopping reader caught two forecasters' references to "perky rain showers" and "fiddly weather." Similar meteorological oddities always welcome.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Collision car smashes into shops

A CAR hit another vehicle before smashing into the front of two disused shops in Bearwood. Residents living in flats above the void shops in Bearwood Road had to be evacuated while checks were carried out to ensure the structures were safe.

Police, fire and ambulance crews were called to the scene of the crash near the junction with Anderson Road at around 12.35am last Thursday. People were allowed back into their properties around an hour later after investigations were completed by a structural engineer from Sandwell Council.

Paramedics tended to one man following the smash. He was taken to City Hospital, in Birmingham, as a precaution. West Midlands Fire Service said he suffered minor injuries.

Crews remained at the scene for more than an hour ensuring the vehicles were safe.Glass and other debris were left strewn around the road and pavement by the impact.

Firefighters left at around 1.45am as police started their investigations into the cause of the smash. A telephone kiosk was also damaged in the smash. Wooden boards were put up over the damaged windows of the empty shops.

A picture from fire crews

Health trust to take on more than 100 nurses

By Heather Large

MORE than 100 nurses will be recruited to Sandwell's hospital trust in a bid to fill vacancies and boost patient care.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is looking to fill 110 full-time positions across its sites.

It follows the recruitment of extra midwives and health visitors as part of a £500,000 investment boost the service offered to mothers and families in July.

The trust, which runs Sandwell Hospital, will hold an open event for potential new recruits on November 14. Chief nurse Colin Ovington said: "The nursing vacancies we are seeking to fill are in areas across the trust, especially our hospital and community wards.

"To ensure we attract the highest calibre of compassionate qualified nurses we have put in place a range of attractive options to encourage them to apply.

Interviews

"Staff will join a successful organisation which is improving quality all the time.

"We are hosting a nursing recruitment open day as a one-stop-shop on November 14 when assessments, interviews and offers will be made on the same day. Details on how to apply are on our website."

The new investment in nurses comes as the hospital trust continues to work to cut agency staff spend.

As of the start of the September the trust had spent £7.5 million so far this year on temporary staff. Bosses have also stopped employing agency staff from Thornbury Nursing Services in a bid to cut costs.

They have also been taking action to reduce staff sickness after it emerged it has cost the trust £9m so far this year.

The current sickness absence level of 4.91 per cent is nearly 0.5 per cent higher than the national average.

Healthy glow after Emma sticks to it

Clubbercise instructor Emma Pearce, of Halesowen, at Leasowes High School, in the town, with her glowsticks

A NEW fitness craze has proved a hit in the Black Country, with scores of people signing up to a 'club-a-size' group.

The concept sees people dancing under disco lights with glow sticks – in an effort to recreate the conditions of a nightclub.

Around 90 people have joined Emma Pearce's group since she launched it at the end of July.

Miss Pearce, aged 30, said: "My demographic is mainly ladies between 25 and 55 – but not just that.

"It can be mums or women who don't go out to nightclubs as much as they used to. Club-a-size is something they can go out to for an hour, and have a full-body workout with the glowsticks and disco lights.

"The music is club anthems from the 90s to the present day."

Miss Pearce hosts sessions in Halesowen and Brierley Hill which have proved popular.

While there are 90 people signed up, she regularly attracts around 40 to the sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays.

"This isn't just limited to the ladies 25 and 55," she said.

Supply chain worker Miss Pearce started attending club-a-size sessions in January and loved the concept so much that she became an instructor.

Since taking on the club-a-size challenge in January Miss Pearce has lost 1st 9lb.

Warning on bogus calls as woman is targeted

A WARNING over bogus doorstep calls has been issued by police after a spate of offences including a 96-year-old woman being robbed of her savings.

The woman was called upon at her West Bromwich home by a man claiming to be investigating a water leak.

The man, described as white, stocky and in his 40s, stole cash and jewellery from her bedroom. It has since emerged similar tactics were used by callers who knocked on doors in Birmingham on the same day.

Police are also investigating two calls received in the space of 30 minutes from Wolverhampton residents who reported suspicious men posing as pest controllers on October 12.

A man asked to lay rat traps in the back gardens of two elderly women in Wolverhampton, an 87-year-old from Pennfields and an 85-year-old from Bradmore.

He did gain access to the 85-year-old woman's home in Bradmore by using the same story and it is understood he tried charging £80 for the traps and left after searching a bedroom.

However, he was left empty handed after the 87-year-old turned him away. Chief Insp Sean Phillips, of Sandwell Police, said: "Unfortunately there are people out there who think nothing of targeting the most vulnerable in society.

"Our message is never to let anyone into your home who turns up unannounced.

"If in doubt keep them out and call the police on 999."

Motorcyclist is killed in crash

A MOTORCYCLIST died in a suspected hit and run in Birmingham.

It happened at the junction of Brinklow Road and Alwold Road, in Weoley Castle at around 4.20pm on Thursday. The rider, a man aged in his 30s, was confirmed dead at the scene. Police are now appealing for witnesses to come forward.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman John Hawker said: "Unfortunately, despite everyone's best efforts, nothing could be done to save the man and he was confirmed dead at the scene."

West Midlands Police spokesman Billy Corrigan said: "The motorcyclist in his late thirties, died at the scene; his family have been informed." Officers are appealing for anyone who may have seen the crash to call 101.

£2,500 of tobacco seized during raid

MORE than £2,500 of illicit tobacco has been seized by police during a raid in Smethwick. Officers discovered the haul in the back of a lorry in the Cape Hill area on Friday. It comes as part of a wider operation with Sandwell Council's trading standards

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Chitty Chitty Bang Bang set to take off with Lee

LEE Mead will star in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang when the production heads to the West Midlands, it has been announced.

The show will be staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from September 7 to 18, 2016.

Lee Mead

Returning to the theatre following his panto run as the title character in Aladdin, Lee Mead will play Caractacus Potts, with Eastenders star Michelle Collins starring as Baroness Bomburst. The rest of the casting for the Birmingham leg of the UK tour will be announced soon.

Birmingham Hippodrome Chief Executive, Fiona Allan, said: "We are delighted Lee Mead is returning to Birmingham Hippodrome in what will be one of the highlights of our 2016 season. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is such a firm family favourite, and we look forward to welcoming the entire cast here next September for a fantastic run."

The show features classics as Truly Scrumptious, Toot Sweets, Hushabye Mountain and the Oscar-nominated title song.

Performance times will vary.

Tickets start from £23.50 and can be booked online at birminghamhippodrome.com or by calling 0844 338 5000.

Get ready to say Hallo to villains

IT'S half term fun at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery next week with the show Hallo-Meanies, which tells the story of what pantomime villains get up to at Halloween.

There will be two performances of the show on Saturday, the first at 10.30am and the second at 2.30pm. Tickets cost £7 for adults and £6 for children, spaces are limited so it is advised to book in advance by calling 0121 556 0683.

The panto villains will then be making another appearance at the Halloween Fun Day on Thursday 29 October between 11am and 3pm.

Then on Wednesday 28 and Friday 30 October people will have the chance to have a go at one of the pumpkin carving workshops.

City pride event tickets on sale

Birmingham Pride 2016 is taking place next year on Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29. Tickets will go on sale on Friday November 6. More information is available at www.birminghampride.com/

Park hit by vandals gets new leaf of life

Protecting Hawne Park, in Halesowen

PEOPLE power is transforming a formerly crime-ridden park in Halesowen.

Hawne Park has become a magnet for drug addicts, vandals and thieves over the years but residents are now saying 'enough is enough' and have formed a friends' group.

The group, which was formed by the residents of Carol Crescent who said they had seen 19 burglaries in the area in the last year, is already working to revamp the park.

Members are working towards funding for a new gate, improved entrances and a new footpath from Short Street. They are also aiming for four new football pitches, fencing improvements and a toddlers playground.

The friends' group said many break-ins occurred in the area as thieves hid in the park's overgrown bushes and woodland.

After Sandra McHardy's neighbour was burgled, she decided to pull together with husband Jim and neighbour Paul Thurlow to create the Friends of Hawne Park.

They have held a meeting with police, councillors and MP James Morris, as well as further get-togethers with Belle Vale councillors Ian Cooper, Donella Russell, Bob James, Simon Phipps.

Group secretary Sandra McHardy added: "We are fundraising any which way we can.

"Everybody has been tremendous in helping and we will be hosting a show on October 24 at Cornbow Hill, which will have Halesowen's own musical theatre singer Neil Greenway performing. Tickets will be £10 and it starts from 7.45pm."

Toxic toy on sale for £1 in discount shop

A CHILDREN'S doll containing toxic chemicals was on sale at a shop in Smethwick.

The owners of Premier Discount in Cape Hill has been fined £2,000 for selling the £1 Girl Fashion toy containing a form of the dangerous chemical phthalates.

Experts say the chemical can lead to an increased risk of cancer as well as other health hazards. Tests on the doll, a plastic girl with blonde hair in a pink, flowery dress, found it contained 500 times more of the hazardous phthalate DEHP than is legally allowed.

The doll and box

Phthalates are used to soften plastics but toy manufacturers are restricted to using only 0.1 per cent of the chemical as it can be absorbed by chewing. The Smethwick doll contained 54 per cent. As well as a heightened risk of cancer, evidence has shown that phthalates can lead to damage to the reproductive system and asthma.

GS Enterprises (Midlands) Limited, which owns the shop, was prosecuted after the doll was purchased by trading standards officers during a sting in November 2014. The sample was purchased as part of a project by a number of trading standards teams.

Officers said they had 'no knowledge' whether any of the dolls were sold to the public.

In addition to the chemicals breach, the doll's packaging did not bear any importer or manufacturer details, which is also an offence.

Company bosses were unable to show where they had bought the dangerous doll from when quizzed by investigators. The company was fined £1,000 for both offences after pleading guilty at Sandwell Magistrates' Court and ordered to pay an additional £1,030 in court costs.

Bob Charnley, trading standards, said: "The company should have known the doll was not legal to sell because it was not marked with the details of the manufacturer or importer. To make matters worse its records were inadequate."

Saranjit Sapra, secretary of Premier Discount, said: "I feel the charge we were given from the council was unfair but I do not want to comment any further."

Rachel sheds 10st for sake of son

Rachel Rose seen before her weight loss

Rachel now, after her dieting and exercise regime success

A SUPER-SLIMMER is celebrating after shedding an incredible 10 stone – more than half her previous body weight.

Rachel Rose is delighted after shrinking from 18st 12lb to 8st 12lb. The 39-year-old's decision to lose weight was inspired by her five-year-old son Evan, and the desire to see him grow up, amid warnings her size would shorten her life.

Mrs Rose, of Crowther Gardens, Halesowen, openly admitted she was 'morbidly obese' before slimming down.

The Weight Watchers leader said: "My weight loss was pretty epic, it was a long drawn-out battle. I've always been big and so that was a way of life for me.

"But when Evan came along the pregnancy was high-risk and it made me realise my weight was affecting other people.

"When you're a parent you always put your children first and it was suddenly so important that I could keep up with him."

Mrs Rose said she achieved her goal by splitting the process into smaller chunks of achievement and combining a new diet and more exercise. She said: "I joined Weight Watchers in October 2013 and then about four or five months afterwards I'd lost a couple of stone, but realised I needed to do some exercise to get my body to come with me."

To keep herself in shape, Mrs Rose now does nine classes a week in the gym.In her role as a Weight Watchers leader, Mrs Rose is now a role model for other women hoping to lose weight.

"Now I'm responsible for about 100 people going through the process I did," she added.

Mrs Rose is over the moon with her new figure, but now wants to raise £4,200 to pay for surgery to remove excess skin after being turned down for NHS-funded surgery. To donate towards her efforts, email r.rosey.29@hotmail.co.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospice event to recall loved ones

A HOSPICE holds an event prior to Christmas for people and families who have lost a loved one. Birmingham St Mary's Hospice's Light up a Life ceremony is on December 10.

People are being invited to have the name of a loved one placed on a star on the Christmas tree and view the hospice Book of Remembrance. More than 1,000 terminally ill patients in Birmingham and Sandwell are cared for at the hospice. Two events will be taking place at 4.30pm and 7.30pm at the hospice in Raddlebarn Road.

Mary Quinn, clinical nurse specialist said: "This Christmas, we're holding our annual Light up a Life event as part of our season of remembrance." Visit www.birminghamhospice.org.uk or call 0121 472 1191.

Remembrance marshals plea

AN appeal has been launched for extra marshals to help Blackheath Royal British Legion's Remembrance parade run smoothly.

The parade will take place on Sunday, November 8 from Old Hill to the Powke Lane Crematorium and Cemetery in Rowley Regis. More than 1,000 people are expected to attend to ensure the parade goes ahead as planned with no hiccups.

Branch secretary Mark Spilsbury said: "It's a bigger march this year and we think more people will be coming to it."

Anyone who can help is asked to call Mr Spilsbury on 07950 948013.

Planners set to visit homes site

TWENTY flats and two new houses could soon be built in Cradley Heath.

Sandwell Council planners are set to visit the proposed site on land adjacent to Compton Grange, in St Anne's Road.

In a report to the next planning meeting, officers recommend councillors see the site for themselves before the full scheme is considered.

Plans are to build the new homes on a landscaped area near Cradley Bypass at its junction with St Anne's Road.

A full report is set to be discussed by the committee in November.

Adams named top for dining

A MICHELIN-starred restaurant in Birmingham has been named the fourth best in the world and the best in the UK for fine dining.

Adam's based in Bennetts Hill received the top rating from customer review website TripAdvisor.

Only two other restaurants in England have made the world's top 10. Staff at the restaurant saying they are delighted by the accolade. It was awarded a coveted Michelin star within six months of opening in 2013.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Square is real retail therapy to help town

THERE hasn't been much in the way of cheer for our beleaguered town centres over the past few years, but at last there is something to shout about. The number of visitors to West Bromwich's New Square shopping centre has rocketed by 25 per cent over the past year, increasing from an already impressive 4.1 million in 2015 to 5.5 million in 2015.

The growth in visitor numbers to West Bromwich will inevitably mean a decline in shoppers somewhere else. However in these days where our high streets have been decimated by the shift towards online shopping and these ghastly out-of-town shopping centres, isn't it heartening to see people returning to a once struggling town centre?

Let nobody forget just how moribund West Bromwich was just five years ago. Row after row of empty shop units, takeaways and betting shops. And of course, the laughable Public arts complex.

Of course, there are still many empty and under-used buildings in West Bromwich, but it would be churlish to deny that this is now a town which has turned the corner after years in the doldrums.

And planners in neighbouring towns would do well to look at West Bromwich as a shining example of what can be done when the powers-that-be ask, listen to what both the public and business want, and bend over backwards to give it to them. Big, modern shop units rather than trendy highbrow arts projects, plentiful car parking right outside the shops rather than half-baked pedestrianisation schemes, and big-name retailers rather than pie-in-the-sky dreaming about heritage and tourism.

■ ■ ■

ONE question though. Since West Bromwich seems to now be doing reasonably well, whatever does Sandwell Council stand to be gained by lumping itself in with this ridiculous joint authority?

Already people are starting to refer to Birmingham and its "city region", before final approval has even been ratified. Councillors promise there will be no loss of identity, but many of them are the same people who 10 years ago were clinging to a ludicrous vision that by the year 2030 The Public would blaze a trail across the land for a renaissance based on the arts, and that Dudley would become a national standard-bearer for town-centre regeneration.

■ ■ ■

WITH the General Election out of the way, I think the pollsters at Yougov must be a bit short of work to keep them going. One of their latest studies reveals that Peroni is perceived as the most upmarket lager on the market, with Carling bumping along the bottom.

Upmarket? Lager? Might as well have carried out a survey to find the world's slimmest sumo wrestler.

The museum brings the Black Country's past back to life

One in and one out – Lowell Williams, left, replaces John Hughes

Cillian Murphy filming hit TV drama series Peaky Blinders

Preserving the past has a bright future

ROBERT COX meets the new Chairman of the Black Country Living Museum Trustees, college boss Lowell Williams

THE 'feeling of steam, dirt and grime in your face' – that's what the Black Country means to the man taking over one of its most popular attractions.

Lowell Williams has guided Dudley College through some of the biggest changes in its history. And now he has set his sights on the Black Country Living Museum.

Top of his agenda is transforming the Tipton Road site into more of a 'complete experience' that throws visitors back into a different era.

The Dudley College principal has been on the board of trustees at the Black Country Living Museum for 18 months and is now stepping up to replace John Hughes as chairman.

While respecting the progress made under his predecessor, who has been in the role since 2006, Mr Williams has set his sights on expanding the reach of the iconic site.

Exciting

Earlier this year the museum's tramway reopened for business after 18 months out of action.

The museum has also created a new entrance to welcome the 60,000 school children who visit the attraction every year, as well as to help cut queues.

The new boss says it is a transformational and exciting phase in the museum's history.

He adds: "The trams are up and running. They have done hundreds of miles over the summer and everyone loves them.

"There is a steam forge hammer which is currently being restored for the canal arm. It will be the only one in the Black Country.

"More importantly we are working on the masterplan for the site. The site is good but there are opportunities to make it better."

Outgoing chairman John Hughes (left) hands over at the Tipton Road attraction to Lowell Williams

The masterplan is intended to be a 10-year forward plan to preserve the museum's future.

At Mr Hughes' final meeting as chair, trustees discussed how they could 'reimagine' the site to give visitors a more authentic experience.

The museum is now a major partner of Arts Council England which means it can attract greater funding – hence the increased ambition.

It comes as the museum was turned into a film set last week, as BBC drama Peaky Blinders, starring Cillian Murphy, was shot there.

Mr Williams says the extra exposure will only improve the museum's reputation. He adds: "The site has been put together by an acquisition of assets to make our collection. Weaved through that is the story of the industrial heritage of the Black Country.

"The board think it could be an even more immersive experience when people come and visit. It can give an even stronger impression of 'black by day and red by night.'

"I think we can bring together some of our assets so they are better connected and get that feeling of steam, dirt and grime so it is really in your face as you go through." The new chairman has set his sights of linking up further with Dudley Canal Trust and Dudley Zoo and also wants to build on the relationship with his primary employer.

"The museum offers my students great opportunities," he says. "We work on the museum's marketing and some of our students take part in our evening performances here.

"Our engineering students work on the design on some of the parts required for the vehicles here which you can no longer buy.

"We can build on the great relationship and give back something after all they have given to us.

"It is great to be taking over as chair of the trustees as the museum is on the up, and that applies to every indicator.

"Visitor numbers are 13 per cent up. Our finances, which are independent and do not rely on public handouts, are strong.

"But probably more important is the museum is one year into a strategic plan. We are finishing the appraisal for further development and there are a number of very big projects about to get off the ground."

Building

As for outgoing chair John Hughes, he is certain Mr Williams can take the attraction onto greater things despite the success under his leadership.

He says: "It has been a very exciting and rewarding time and I believe the museum has developed considerably.

"At the start of my period as chair we were coming to the end of a big building programme and in my time we have built the worker's institute, and the whole of this 1930s street which has got the world-famous fish and chip shop, as well as three others.

"Later there was a period of difficult trading but since then we have been able to grow our numbers and the museum is currently going to have incredible numbers this year.

"I certainly feel we are on the up."

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No justice for tragic Pc's murder

MY heart goes out to the family and colleagues of murdered Police Constable Dave Phillips, killed whilst in the line of duty by burglars on the run. Furthermore my heart aches for what I feel will be the outcome too.

They are sure once found guilty to receive prison sentences we all feel will not be long enough. They will be the centre of thousands of taxpayers' money spent on their alleged rehabilitation, satellite TV, ample access to drugs, regular exercise, and so on, then most likely as polls show us they will reoffend once given an early release.

So where in all this is the justice for his wife and small children, they have been given a life sentence of grief, the low life killers of Pc Phillips will at one time walk free. My personal opinion on capital punishment for police and child killers is an obvious one.

It is not just about their sentence, it's about how we set about removing such scum from our lives. At least give us, the 'public', a say...or will it take a senior politician's death to arouse a more serious debate?

S HARRISON
West Bromwich

Free spaces will bring back trade

JUST who do Sandwell Council think they are trying to fool regarding car parks in Cradley Heath?

These car parks used to be free and were extensively used by shoppers. Sandwell Council made them 'pay and display' car parks with the result that they then became less well used and, now, surplus to requirements.

If these car parks were once again made to be free, the car parks would, once more, be extensively used and traders might see an increase in their customer base. Cradley Heath is already a dying shopping centre with many empty shop units.

The Tesco car park referred to belongs to Tesco and is for Tesco customer's use. It seems that the whole exercise was instigated by Sandwell Council to provide an easy route and justification for selling off the land. It is obvious that shoppers with cars are going to shun 'pay and display' car parks when they were once free.

M WALKER
Cradley Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Delays prove fiasco of shopping hopes

REFERRING to the news about delays at the £12 million shopping centre. It appears that work is not now expected to begin until next year. Another fiasco by the crazy Walsall Council.

Here we go yet again. All that money committed to a new shopping centre and leisure complex in Digbeth and Lower Hall Lane, 11 units are proposed and so far B&M and Poundland have already signed, wow wee!

What will happen to the rest of the units, what is the difference between derelict shops standing empty and new units doing the same – money of course, spent by 'cash-strapped Walsall' when it is or should be obvious that shoppers are not shopping. Added to which is the real possibility that the initial £12m could double, and then some. It's all happened before, but does Walsall Council ever learn, lack of footfall was the reason the existing shops closed?

Do the bright new things who collectively make up Walsall Council really believe that new, expensive-to-build shops will cause shoppers to spend more? They all still have only one purse and just can't stretch it any further.

The council will be completely out of control and up to their necks in debt for years to come.

Come on Walsall, wake up to reality, move out of the fog and see life as it really is.

P POOLE
Willenhall

Rural life is essential

I DON'T live in Essington, Landywood or Great Wyrley but I feel I have to reply to the letter from J Wheeler from Wednesbury (No need for countryside).

This person says that the people of these areas should go to Cannock Chase if they want to see green fields and wildlife. He/she seems to be all for building on green belt land, what a country this would be if we all had that attitude. We need our green fields and wildlife wherever they may be, we have already decimated enough of the countryside as it is!

Also this person says that the protesters should come and live in the city, I didn't realise Wednesbury had city status! I fully support the people of the above villages. We all need our countryside areas however small they may be. Get a life J Wheeler, have a day in the country, Cannock Chase is only up the road!

I HUNTER
Willenhall

Taking eggs will not work

K Parton (Letters, October 12) is realistic in accepting that the number of Canada geese should be controlled but is optimistic in saying that this can be achieved by removing their eggs.

I understand that Sandwell Council has tried this without success, possibly because the birds lay another clutch of eggs so as to maintain the excessive numbers.

The only workable method appears, unfortunately, to be humane culling.

G BENNETT
Tipton

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Mother hits heights to aid hospital

Diane Watkins takes the plunge during her tandem skydive in aid of Well Wishers

A MOTHER-of-eight from Darlaston took the plunge in a skydive to thank a charity which provided help when she gave birth to her premature son.

Diane Watkiss has raised hundreds of pounds for Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's Well Wishers charity, which raises money for equipment, services and care.

The 43-year-old wanted to thank the charity for the care that she and her premature son Jenson received at Walsall Manor Hospital.

She suffered placenta abruption, a serious condition in which the placenta partially or completely separates from the uterus. The condition can deprive the baby of oxygen and nutrients, and cause severe bleeding that can be dangerous to both mother and baby.

She also developed pre-eclampsia and gave birth via emergency caesarean.

Jenson was born 10 weeks early weighing just over four pounds and was given a 50-50 chance of survival.

He spent five weeks in the neo natal unit at the Manor Hospital.

Jenson will celebrate his first birthday in January.

Mrs Watkiss said: "Well Wishers is such a good cause because maternity services does some brilliant work and staff are so caring and supportive."

Warning over complacency

WALSALL Council has been warned against complacency as it strives to improve its protection of children.

The authority's children's services department was placed into special measures by Ofsted inspectors in 2012.

The improvement notice was removed last summer and since then, the council set itself targets to work closer with other agencies to prevent children having to be safeguarded and to continue helping those in need.

But Robert Lake, independent chairman of the Walsall Local Safeguarding Children Board, warned complacency on behalf of any organisation involved in safeguarding could lead to Walsall being back where it was in 2012.

Presenting his final findings to a scrutiny panel, Mr Lake said: "I am confident that children in Walsall are safer than they have been for some time. However, I am concerned that now we may let complacency sink in. It is almost as if some agencies think, we have sorted that, lets move on.

"I think the message needs to go out to these agencies, who I just feel are taking their foot off the gas."

Councillor Rose Burley who represents the Darlaston area, said: "This is not a case of sitting on our laurels, we need to make sure that things continue to be done."

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No resting on laurels vow as jobless numbers down

UNEMPLOYMENT in Sandwell has fallen, bucking the trend in the West Midlands, new figures show.

The borough is matching the rest of the UK which has seen unemployment fall to a seven-year low. And it performed better than Dudley and Walsall in lowering queues at the Job Centre. West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey welcomed the figures but warned people could be finding themselves stuck in low paid jobs.

Falls in unemployment in most parts of the UK saw the nation's jobless total dip by 79,000 to 1.7 million between June and August, the lowest figure since the summer of 2008.

But in the West Midlands unemployment rose by 1,000 to 165,000.

In Sandwell the claimant count fell by 55 to 6,641 or 3.3 per cent – the UK average is 1.9 per cent.

Mr Bailey said: "Any reduction in unemployment is to be welcomed. However the slowdown in wage growth could mean that more people are being employed but with lower wages.

"And therefore the figures must be treated with caution."

Tackle

Sandwell Council deputy leader, Councillor Steve Eling, said figures were still too high but the authority was working hard to tackle the problem. "Any reduction is going to be good news for the area but we can't rest on our laurels, it's clear to see that the West Midlands employment rate is far too high," he said.

"As a council we are always looking to bring in new business and it is a crucial part of the economic development work we do. We've created a significant number of jobs, where we encourage all employers to employ Sandwell people."

Facelift for tower block is under way

A MUCH-NEEDED £2.5 million facelift has started on a West Bromwich tower block. Kynaston House in Rydding Lane is getting new windows and balcony doors, new lifts and the outside of the building is being fitted with insulated cladding.

It is the 34th block of flats to be refurbished in Sandwell in just 10 years.

Two new flats will be created on the ground floor with entrances being remodelled and communal areas decorated. There will be more car parking spaces and the area around the block landscaped.

The 11-storey block has 41 flats.

Councillor Paul Moore, Sandwell Council's regeneration chief, said: "People living in and around Kynaston House will know just how much the block needs improving, so I welcome Keepmoat starting on site and look forward to the block being transformed."

Haunting tale from rep performers

OLDBURY Rep continues its 77th Season, hot on the heels of the upcoming Halloween, with Alan Ayckbourn's ghost story Haunting Julia.

The story begins 12 years after musical prodigy Julia Lukin's suicide. Her father Joe is still finding it difficult to terms with her death and in the Julia Larkin Centre For Performing Studies – formerly the building where Julia lived as a student – he hopes to discover what happened by meeting with ,the mysterious Ken and Julia's boyfriend, Andy, who was the last person to see her alive.

The men meet in Julia's preserved bedroom and Joe reveals that he believes Julia is trying to contact him; haunting him in order to explain what happened. Between the three men, the story of Julia's life and death is gradually revealed. Their relationships with her are laid bare and the tension mounts to a spine chilling finale.

The production runs from Saturday November 7 until the 14th, and performances start at 7.30pm.

Tickets can be obtained by phone or in person from the box office on Monday evenings from 7.30pm, and on the Friday prior to opening night from 7.30pm, and every night of the production from 7pm .

Tickets are priced at £10 with the usual concessions at £9, plus a special price on Monday and Tuesday of £8 (no concessions); the box office can be contacted on 0121 552 2761. And you can now book online at www.oldburyrep.org.

Andy Worley as Andy, Ian Thompson as Joe (her father) and Guy Radforth as Ken

Meanwhile, Langley Band's Annual Christmas Concerts will take place on December 2 and 4 at 8pm and on the 5th at 7.30 with a programme of festive favourites. Book online www.langleyband.co.uk or phone 01384 918547

The Rep's season of film screenings continue on October 23, with the supernatural drama The Falling, on November 20, Sir Ian McKellen can be seen in Mr Holmes, with a real family treat in store on December 12 – Disney's Inside Out.

All films are shown on the 16ft screen with high quality digital projection in our 170 seat auditorium.

All tickets are still just £3.50 and the performance starts at 7.30pm

Driver stole mobile phones worth £16,500

A delivery driver stole mobile phones worth up to £16,500 in four months while on his rounds, a judge heard.

Christopher Parchment then sold the haul of more than 30 handsets to other criminals involved in a massive scam, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The phones had been bought by the gang using fake bank details and names and addresses primarily in and around Tipton which he covered, explained Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting.

They had been purchased from both the Carphone Warehouse and 3 and were supposedly being taken to the customers by parcel delivery firm DPD which has bases in Oldbury and Smethwick and had Parchment on the payroll, the court heard.

The 42-year-old collected the phones and signed the necessary documents to supposedly confirm they had been delivered. In fact he handed them over to the other criminals who are still on the run.

Miss Krystelle Wass, defending, said: "There were £16,500 of handsets involved but the benefit to him was less than £1,000 and the majority of this was sent to Jamaica to pay for an operation for his sister."

Parchment of Temple Way, Tividale pleaded guilty to theft and was given a 36 week jail term suspended for two years and 240 hours unpaid work.

Police in crackdown to stop speeding

POLICE have led a crackdown against speeding in West Bromwich.

Officers have been out around the Hill Top and Black Lake areas after residents' concerns. Drivers' speeds have been monitored around Meyrick Road, Pemberton Road and Heronville Road. Sgt Sean Griffiths said: "Speed enforcement operations will continue in the future."

Jasmin is fighting her way to the top with gold

A BLACK Country kickboxer has won gold in the European championships and is being tipped to go even further in the world of martial arts.

Jasmin May beat the best the continent had to offer in Spain, defeating the Russian and Hungarian champions on her path to glory and bringing the honours home to Sandwell.

The 18-year-old trains at the Tipton Tigers in New Road, Great Bridge, and in winning gold became the first British female to achieve the feat in 40 years.

And her coach Hopeton Harmitt believes there is no limit to how far the Tipton fighter can go.

Mr Harmitt said: "It was the thing we were working towards for a long time, she was absolutely overwhelmed with winning it.

"It is a fantastic achievement.

"We have some youngsters who are also doing quite well, so the future looks bright for children in the local area."

He is hoping Jasmin can continue her dominance at home and abroad for the immediate future but the ultimate aim is Olympic glory, although that would mean making the switch to tae kwon do as kickboxing is not currently an Olympic sport.

Mr Harmitt said: "It would be a difficult transition moving to tae kwon do, it's a totally different discipline but in the future it is something we would like to see."

Jasmine's mother Susan May said: "I am a very proud mum.

"She wouldn't have achieved what she has without her hard work and dedication and the help of her coach."

Jasmin May, aged 18, from Tipton, who recently came back with Gold from the WAKO Europeans in Spain

Youngsters going to get new skate park

WORK will begin on a new skate park outside a Great Barr community centre after a deal was agreed.

More than 70 young people signed a petition asking for the skate park to be created on land to the rear of Tanhouse Community Centre, in a campaign which was backed by councillors.

Consultation events were held with youngsters to assess the viability of the scheme since the petition was tabled in August 2013.

Sandwell Council has agreed to find the cash to fund the creation of the park in Hamstead Road, Hamstead.

Ward councillor Dave Hosell says paperwork is being completed to allow work to start within weeks.

"I'm really pleased that we have got here and I'm hopeful that it should be open to use soon."

The open ground has been used as a football pitch previously and part of the site is now home to an all weather pitch and children's play area.

Hundreds of people attend the annual bonfire night event held behind the community centre.

Jail after threat to torch home of ex-lover

A JILTED man who threatened to torch his former partner's home has been jailed for two years.

Shaun Lloyd doused himself and the stairs leading to the first floor flat in fuel – and then asked for a lighter.

The drama came just hours after police had ordered the 28-year-old not to go to the address where he had previously tried to stab a member of the family who was trying to stop him getting into the property.

by John Scott

The couple had just broken up after four years together during which time they had two children, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Lloyd was drunk when he went to the ex-partner's home in Sky Walk, Cradley Heath, and slapped her father across the face on April 3.

Poked

He also butted and punched a door, causing £100 damage before taking a knife from a kitchen drawer and waving it around, said Mr John Evans, prosecuting, who added: "He was screaming and shouting."

The defendant left the flat and poked the knife blade through a crack in the front door as a member of the family tried to shut it in his face as he tried to return.

Police arrived shortly after 3am, arrested Lloyd and later released him on bail on condition he stayed away from the address.

But hours later he arrived at the flat holding a can of fuel. Mr Evans said: "He got in through the unlocked front door, poured petrol over his head, down the stairs and on the walls. He then left, pouring more petrol as he went before asking for a lighter."

Lloyd was detained at the scene and later told police he had not intended to carry out his threat to burn the place down and was merely trying to 'get the attention' of his former partner.

Mr Ben Williams, defending, said: "It must have been terrifying for her but this was desperate behaviour. He was taking the break up in their relationship very badly and behaving in an utterly inappropriate way.

"The fact that he thought he had to go to these lengths to attract her attention shows how desperate he was. Alcohol also played its part."

Lloyd from Bolton Square, West Bromwich, admitted affray, assault, criminal damage and threatening to damage property.

Judge Mark Eades who told him: "Your behaviour towards your former partner was appalling."

Centre attracts high street chains

TWO high street chains are bringing their presence to a multi-million pound shopping centre in the heart of West Bromwich.

Clothes shop Peacocks and jewellers Warren James now have outlets at New Square shopping centre.

Peacocks has already opened near Primark bringing 15 new jobs.

Meanwhile, Warren James will be creating eight new jobs.

Steve Burr, centre manager for New Square, said: "We're delighted to welcome these two fantastic additions to New Square, both landing in the build-up to the Christmas trading period.

"Peacocks and Warren James are both great consumer brands and will further enhance the centre's already outstanding retail offering," added Mr Burr.

MP focuses on problems for inmates

MORE needs to be done to tackle the issue of mental health among prisoners, a Black Country MP has said.

James Morris said he was concerned about suicide rates in prisons and the issue of mental health in the prison system.

The MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis was speaking in the House of Commons during a discussion with the chairman of the Justice Committee Bob Neill, following the publication of a report on prison policy.

Mr Morris said: "Does my honourable friend agree that one way of addressing demand and some of the issues that he has raised about rehabilitation is to look wholesale at how mental health is tackled in prisons?"

Mr Neill agreed that improvements could be made. He said: "My experience always was that some people end up in prison because they are very bad people, but a lot of people end up in prison because they are vulnerable and fragile and their circumstances have worked out badly. They need some help to be rehabilitated."

Pledge to find workers jobs after Caparo Industries collapse shock

AN MP has hit out at the 'shocking news' of 1,700 jobs at risk in the Black Country following Caparo Industries calling in the administrators.

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey, said: "We will do all we can to help those who are affected by job losses find employment with local companies.

"It's shocking news and a huge blow to the Black Country. Unless the Government intervenes, there won't be a British steel industry in a year's time. I will do everything I can to save their jobs."

GMB, the union for steel workers, has said 'only the Government has the power to act' upon the threat of the industry.

Joe Morgan, GMB Regional Secretary for West Midlands, said "This is even more bad news for our members and their families. David Cameron needs to button hole Chinese President Xi Jinping, while he is in London with his 900 strong entourage, to get a stop to dumping Chinese steel in the UK below the costs of making it.

"Amber Rudd needs to get on with the energy compensation scheme. Only Government has the power to act. Without immediate action the position facing steel workers is dire"

Caparo Industries has called in administrators as the firm struggles

The company, part of the wider Caparo group owned by Lord Paul of Marylebone, Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton, is the biggest manufacturing business in the Black Country. The business has 20 sites across Willenhall, West Bromwich, Wednesbury and Cradley Heath.

It is the latest to fall victim to the crisis gripping the UK steel industry and will continue as a going concern under administrators from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) while attempts are made to forge a long-term future for the business.

Most of the companies within the business are likely to be bought up by a new Caparo entity, but some less profitable operations may face being sold off or closed if a new owner cannot be found. That could mean job losses, potentially in the hundreds.

It comes as the UK steel industry reels from the loss of around 2,200 jobs at the SSI mill at Redcar and the impending announcement of 1,200 jobs losses at Tata Steel in Scunthorpe and Scotland. Tata employs around 700 people in the Black Country, most of them at its Wednesfield Steelpark. All three companies have been hit by the crisis in the steel industry, afflicted by competition from cheap Chinese imports, the strength of the pound and the country's high cost of energy.

Caparo Industries warned in its most recent set of accounts that it faced 'difficult trading conditions'. They show turnover in 2014 down by 1.3 per cent to £368.1 million while the group fell to a £700,000 operating loss, compared to a £3.1m profit the year before. Caparo Industries' UK operations made an operating loss of £2.5m.

The pound has continued to remain high while the price of steel has fallen to 10-year lows. While the wider Caparo group is based in London, Caparo Industries is run from offices at Popes Lane, Oldbury, where the firm also has some of its tubes businesses. A spokesman for PwC said: "Staff will work and be paid as normal while the administrators assess the state of the business."

Arena team scoops top accolade

BIRMINGHAM'S Barclaycard Arena has scooped a prestigious industry award. It was been given the title Best Venue Teamwork-Arenas' at the Live UK Music Business Awards.

The annual event hosted in London, recognises excellence and talent among promoters, venue operators, festival organisers and agents, through to artiste managers, tour managers, show producers, brand impact and record label partnerships.

A panel of industry professionals shortlisted the Barclaycard Arena for its team's dedication to delivering shows throughout the 18 month redevelopment of the entertainment venue.

The shortlist was then taken to a public vote, where the Arena beat off competition from fellow category finalists The O2, London and Capital FM Arena, Nottingham.

Managing director of NEC Group Arenas Phil Mead said: "For the Barclaycard Arena to win such an accolade is testament to how hard our Arenas Team worked during the months of the redevelopment."

Have you always dreamt of owning your own home?

Then Right to Buy could open the door to make your dream a reality. If you've been a council tenant for at least 3 years, you could get a discount of up to £77,900 (or £103,900 if you live in London) towards buying your home.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Dream of owning your own home?

THE Right to Buy scheme helps eligible council and housing association tenants buy their home at discounted market value.

Since discounts were increased in 2012, over 35,000 people in England have become homeowners through the Right to Buy scheme.

Could this be the right time for you – or somebody you know – to join them?

Up to a maximum of 70 per cent off the price of a home is available – up to a cash value of £77,900, or £103,900 in London. Each year this discount increases by the rate of inflation.

Recent changes in eligibility means that a council tenant needs to be secured for three years instead of five before applying to buy a home. So now could be the ideal time to take that next step.

Buying a home is a life-changing decision and a commitment that shouldn't be made without seeking expert impartial advice. First, find out whether you're eligible and if it's affordable.

Who qualifies for the Right to Buy? For tenants able to answer 'yes' to the following questions, then it is likely you will be eligible to buy your current home through the scheme.

- Are you currently a council tenant, or were you living in your home when the council transferred it to another landlord (usually a housing association)?
- Have you been a council or housing association tenant for three years or more?
- Can you confirm that you do not live in sheltered housing or other housing designed for elderly or disabled people?

Tenants also need to be free from legal problems including debt or outstanding possession orders, and a home mustn't be scheduled for demolition.

The Government has plans to extend Right to Buy. For housing association tenants currently not eligible, the advice is to sign up to receive updates by visiting our Right to Buy website.

Other Government schemes that might help can be viewed on www.ownyourhome.gov.uk.

To find out about buying your home and eligibility for a discount, visit www.communities.gov.uk/therighttobuy.

Buying a home is a life-changing decision offering security

Up to a maximum of 70 per cent off the price of a home is available

There is a simple quiz to check eligibility, an easy-to-use calculator to help work out affordability and lots of practical tips about the buying process.

For those who decide to go ahead, fill in the application form and take the process forward with landlords.

There is plenty of guidance available to help people decide if it's the right choice for you. You're not on your own.

With the Government's official Right to Buy advisor service, free and impartial advice is available as well as help and support needed throughout the process of buying a home from filling in the application form to completing a purchase – if you decide it's the right choice for you.

Advisers can provide information on finding a mortgage, appointing a solicitor and arranging a survey.

For those midway through buying and have a problem, get in touch with the advisor service.

The advisors are available from Monday to Friday, 8am until 6pm, call 0300 123 0913, email enquiry@righttobuyagent.org.uk or chat online.

Top styles and fashions will be on display at the Clothes Show Live

The show features more than 350 brands

COMPETITION

Win chance to visit fashion event of year

THE Clothes Show in association with ALCATEL ONETOUCH returns to the NEC Birmingham from December 4-8.

With over 350 top fashion and beauty brands, non-stop catwalk shows, makeovers, manicures, demonstrations and style advice, 2015 will offer an all-new fashion experience.

Visitors can head down The Clothes Show's new Boutique Boulevard and shop in a host of pop-up stores.

A whole host of Hair & Beauty products from brands including NYX, Barry M, Models Own, Rimmel, Elemis, Ciate, Lee Stafford, THX Total Hair Experts, and The Beauty Store will be on show.

Back by popular demand the Saks Pamper Lounge will offer visitors the chance to sit back and enjoy a luxury blow dry or manicure. Adding to the fashion-filled spectacular will be several must-visit stages.

The Image Catwalk will be presented by fashion expert Antonia O'Brien, while fashion journalist and industry favourite, Hilary Alexander OBE, will offer exclusive trend presentations and interviews from leading designers. Joining Hilary will be presenter and model Lilah Parsons.

Every ticket includes a seat in the ALCATEL ONETOUCH Fashion Theatre. Head stylist Karl Willett will bring together the very best in high-street and designer brands to the show.

Charli XCX, Rae Morris and Ella Eyre will perform live, while Radio 1 presenters Alice Levine and Gemma Cairney host the Fashion Theatre stage.For tickets visit clothesshow.

HOW TO ENTER

The Chronicle is offering nine lucky readers and their 'plus one' the chance to attend the opening day (Friday December 4).

To stand a chance of winning, just answer this simple question. Which Radio 1 presenters will be hosting the Fashion Theatre stage?

Send your answers to: Clothes Show, Chronicle series, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date is October 29.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Open weekend to show off parks

ADVERTISING FEATURE

THE owners of a premier group of parks in the Heart of England & Mid Wales are opening their gates this weekend to welcome visitors who want to explore the idea of holiday home ownership.

The aptly named "Bestparks" group are hosting a Showcase Weekend on October 24 and 25 at all of their six, first class country parks.

This family owned group prides itself on operating a range of parks that never compromise on the Bestparks Five-Star standards.

"What sets us apart from our competitors is that we have parks within our group that can match most holiday home owner's needs," explained Alwyn Jones, founder of the business and father to Wayne and Glenn who both run their own Bestparks.

Location

"Some people want more facilities for families, whilst others want small and intimate country retreats," he added. "Within the Bestparks group we are able to deliver on all counts!"

The proud father added: "Wayne and Sarah's park – Poston Mill is unrivalled in the area for location and park facilities, while Pearl Lake run by Glenn and Hannah is a luxury country park set around a breathtaking 15 acre glacier lake."

Other parks include The Smithy in mid-Wales, which is popular with people from the Midlands wanting a high quality halfway point for the coast; Arrow Bank a small select park in the historical village of Eardisland; Westbrook a touring park near Ludlow and Rockbridge Park at Presteigne which also has park homes for sale.

This is the third open weekend of the season and is a chance for all six parks to showcase themselves and their facilities and an opportunity for visitors to view the wide range of the latest 2016 model holiday homes on display.

Each park will be hosting events over the weekend and as all the parks are within an hour's drive of each other visitors have a great opportunity to also enjoy this beautiful region.

You can download free tickets for the events at www.bestparks.co.uk

The open weekend will showcase what Bestparks has to offer

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Rebel alliance on charter vote

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

IT says something about trust in politicians when a government has to pass a law to make itself keep a promise.

That's effectively what happened with George Osborne's 'fiscal charter', which in a nutshell it compels the government to clear the deficit and then get a surplus by 2019/20 and run one every year afterwards.

It sounds sensible on paper. Or as the Chancellor likes to put it, it's 'fixing the roof while the sun is shining'.

After years of deficit, borrowing and debt, the idea that the government might have squirrelled a bit of money away to stop the economy going off a cliff again in the wake of another, devastating global recession is actually rather comforting.

Capital

There are, of course, reasons to believe this is a bit of a gamble, even though it smacks of prudence.

For a start it ropes in capital spending. That means it puts a limit on the amount of money that could be spent on big infrastructure projects – new roads and transport and lots of other things that would not only create jobs in the planning and construction but improve things for businesses who would also go on to create jobs. This is where Labour is coming from, sort of.

It took the new shadow chancellor John McDonnell a while to get there, of course. A couple of weeks ago he was all ready to back the charter.

Adrian Bailey MP, West Bromwich West

Dudley North MP Ian Austin

Then Labour's MPs got told they would have to vote against it. There wasn't much in the way of a discussion about it either.

And 21 of them decided to defy the party whip and abstain. It's not as though Jeremy Corbyn could really blame them. He's voted against Labour more than David Cameron has.

But it also made a rebel out of the normally very loyal MP for West Bromwich West, Adrian Bailey.

According to the Public Whip website he voted another way to the majority in his party just eight times out of 920 in the whole of the last Parliament (and that includes free votes as well as the whipped ones).

But he's been looking at Labour's internal polling and is certain he knows why Labour lost the election – it wasn't trusted to run the economy.

Meanwhile fellow Black Country rebel Ian Austin (it's a rebel alliance, like Star Wars) brought to mind Admiral Ackbar in Return of the Jedi when he declared the fiscal charter vote to be 'a trap'.

For a trap it was. If Labour had voted for it, it was effectively endorsing austerity and all the things it professes to stand against. Vote it down and the message sent was that the party did not believe in 'responsibility'.

The reality is that the charter itself is meaningless. Parliament is sovereign. It can make and unmake any law. As long as a party has a majority and all its MPs on side it will win the vote.

George Osborne might think he's putting the stopper in the bottom of the piggy bank. But he and his suc-

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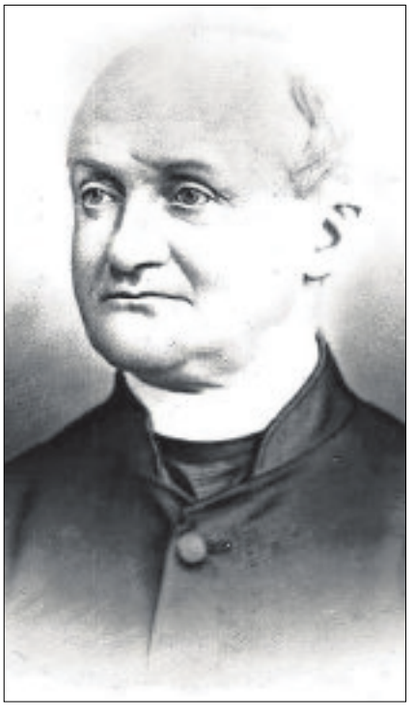
Stuart Bathurst School is celebrating 50 years

Ensuring potential is reached

Youngsters and parents attending an open day at the school back in 1969



Canon Stuart Bathurst, after whom the school was named

STUART Bathurst Catholic High School is celebrating 50 years and is inviting all past and present staff and pupils to join in the celebrations.

The school would like to invite all those who have had association with it over the years to join them in commemorating their Golden Jubilee with the Archbishop of Birmingham for a special Mass at St Mary's Catholic Church, Wednesbury on November 5 at 7pm.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School opened in September 1965 with 120 students. There were 10 teachers including the headmaster, a school secretary, a caretaker and a cook.

The headmaster, Mr Kennedy, designed the school badge and chose the uniform, which have remained the same.

The school is named after Canon Stuart Bathurst who came to be parish priest at St Mary's Church, Wednesbury in 1871.

He was a man born to immense wealth and privilege but abandoned this when he was ordained by Blessed John Henry Newman.

Canon Bathurst saw the appalling poverty and living conditions of his poor congregation and he realised that to improve their lives he would need to provide education. So, using his own money he built two schools – one for seniors and one for juniors.

He saw education as the key to personal growth and as the means to enable young people to make the fullest contribution to the common good of society.

Foundation

Next, he turned his attention to his church. The old one was demolished and the foundation of the new church was laid on May 26, 1873.

The ethos of the school embodies everything that Canon Bathurst held dear: love of God, charity and being truly inclusive. It is this ethos that has helped the school go from strength to strength, becoming the most improved school in the borough of Sandwell.

Each year the school has seen greater achievements, culminating in their recent record breaking GCSE results, which places Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School among the top performing schools in Sandwell.

The staff believe it is by building on ideals of charity, selflessness and love of God which gives students a unique balance of traditional values coupled with progressive teaching, thus ensuring that every student reaches his or her full potential and beyond.

Fifty years on, the school has grown to accommodate 900 students and more than 100 staff, including 60 teachers.

Much has changed since the opening of the school but the values and the ethos have remained the same, as has the school motto – Tien Ta Foy (Hold to the Faith) which was taken from the Bathurst family crest.

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Advice to face your fears over working out

THE horrors of Halloween are here again on October 31 and local health expert Mel Carpenter, aged 38, wants to use this scary time of year to motivate people to face some of the biggest fears people have about working out.

Gym-phobia is a stumbling block for a lot of people who want to start exercising more regularly but feel really anxious about working out. However, Mel has some tips to anyone who wants to get over their fears of fitness and face their demons head-on.

Mel Carpenter

"It may surprise some people but the biggest hurdle many people face when trying to lose weight is the fear of working out in front of people.

"It can cause really high levels of anxiety so they avoid working out altogether."

Try getting a friend to come along with you. Working out with someone you know can help you feel more comfortable and the moral support you can give each other can be invaluable

Check for beginners classes or explain to the instructor that you are new and have no experience and need a few pointers

Wear workout clothes you are comfortable in. You don't have to have all the latest gear to exercise, if you work out properly it'll be covered in sweat anyway, don't feel you need skin-tight lycra just a normal loose fitting T-shirt will work just as well.

Everyone struggles at the start and you may not know the moves or the right techniques but you're not alone

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Classes can be daunting at first but if you stick at it you'll feel more at home the longer you are there.

Use these tips from Mel to push through your fears you face head-on. You may just end up surprising yourself.

FOCUS ON SMETHWICK AND BEARWOOD

Work restarts on £5.2m park and home facelift

By Lee Watton

A £5.2 MILLION project to restore a stately home and park has resumed, with workers back on site after the project ground to a halt earlier this year.

Work at Lightwoods House and Park in Bearwood was suspended after the original contractor went into administration putting the scheme in doubt.

But the site is once bustling with activity after the contract was transferred to new company HB&C. Preparations have been taking place and workers last week picked up where the project left off.

They are working on the stately home from the roof down. New scaffolding has been put up and work is taking place to build chimneys. The previous chimneys were removed after years of being exposed to the elements took its toll. Work is also taking place on other parts of the roof.

Councillor Richard Marshall said construction teams were working to have the majority of the outside work complete before the winter months.

"In this way even if we have a terrible winter they will be able to work on the interior of the building without any further delays," he said.

"It is great to have the project up and running again," Councillor Marshall added.

"There are a number of teams working on different parts of the site. Obviously we have lost around four months on the project but we are aiming to have the project completed by the end of next summer."

Lightwoods House and Park is bustling with activity after the restoration project was transferred to new company

Tobacco sniffed out by dogs at stores in town

SNIFFER dogs helped uncover thousands of cigarettes and hundreds of kilos of tobacco on three raids on shops in Smethwick. Sandwell Council's trading standards team, working with police and immigration officers, used the special dogs on the operation, which follows other successful raids in recent months.

Officers found 27,100 cigarettes and 278.5kg of hand-rolling tobacco with a retail worth in excess of £22,000.

Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council, said: "This is vital work because we are determined to search out people selling illegal cigarettes and tobacco."

The latest haul comes as as part of a council crackdown which has seen seven traders successfully prosecuted in the borough. One was forced to pay out £6,000 while another was given a 12-week prison sentence suspended for 18 months.

Another was also given a 12-month community order and ordered to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work.

Eight licensing reviews have been requested by trading standards officers against shopkeepers for stocking illegal and counterfeit tobacco.

Vehicle hire firm to open a new branch

A VEHICLE hire firm will open a new branch in Oldbury next month, creating 11 jobs. Northgate Vehicle Hire will be based at Units A and B on Portway Trade Park, Portway Road.

The firm already has branches in Birmingham, Cannock and Kidderminster.

The new base in Oldbury will be open six days a week.

Branch manager Dave George said: "For our existing customers who are currently using our Cannock and Birmingham branches especially, this will be a major positive with shorter journey times and the ease of access to the Oldbury branch."

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VAUXHALL

The Albion team which lined up for the clash, their first cup final appearance

The 1886 line-ups as featured in the match programme

King George V presents the cup to the Tottenham captain in 1921

The Wolves v Tottenham final tie programme

Rare cup memorabilia to go under hammer

A PAIR of the most rare and valuable Black Country football programmes go under the hammer later this month.

The monumental 1886 FA Cup final programme between West Bromwich Albion and Blackburn Rovers is made up of just a single sheet, featuring the team line-ups and an advertisement on the back.

It is one of the rarest pieces of football memorabilia and is particularly significant as it was Albion's first ever appearance at an FA Cup final.

The programme was worth two old pennies at the time and has been described as 'extremely scarce'. It will go up for sale at Graham Budd Auctions in a 'Sporting Memorabilia' auction in London on October 27.

The match was played at the Kennington Oval, now the Test-playing home of Surrey County Cricket Club, to a crowd of 15,000 on April 3. Albion boasted four England internationals in

MEMORY LANE

By David Callaghan

their team, with goalkeeper Bob Roberts, midfielder Charlie Perry, forward George Woodhall and captain Jem Bayliss. It was the first of West Brom's 10 FA Cup final appearances and was the first time a Midlands club had reached the final.

Auctioneer Graham Budd said: "Any programmes of this nature, pre-First World War are exceptionally rare. This programme was worth only two old pennies in 1886, but we expect a number of collectors to show a very keen interest as it is a very scarce piece of memorabilia.

"I imagine we'd be looking in the region of £20,000 to £25,000 for it."

The match finished 0-0, with one of the rules at the time being both teams needed to agree for extra time to take place. Albion were keen to continue but Blackburn Rovers refused, forcing a replay a week later at Derbyshire County Cricket Club's Racecourse Ground.

The replay was noteworthy as it was the first time an FA Cup final had been played outside of London and both the final and replay being refereed by Major Francis Marindin.

Blackburn went on to beat Albion 2-0, making it their third successive FA Cup final victory.

At the same auction there will also be a 1921 Wolves v Tottenham Hotspur FA Cup final programme, which was played at Stamford Bridge. It originally cost 6d, which was sixpence, or three pence in modern money and was produced as it was one of the last finals played before the competition moved to Wembley in 1923.

Wolves were led by their first club manager, Jack Addenbrooke, but went down 1-0 to a single Jimmy Dimmock goal. The the cup was presented by King George V.

Mr Budd believes the programme will fetch between '£1,000 and £1,500.'

The back of the 1886 Albion cup final programme

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Minimum part exchange*	£1,900.00	Amount of credit	£14,723.20
48 monthly payments	£184.65	Excess mileage (per mile)	4.4p
Optional final payment	£5,985.00	Rate of interest	6.17% fixed
		Representative APR	6.2% APR

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The skate and the good

Disney On Ice – Page 25

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See Page 25

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by Alan Ayckbourn

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John Bramwell

Sunday, 7pm
02 Institute, B'ham
I Am Kloot's singer-songwriter comes to the Digbeth venue as part of his first European solo tour armed with new songs since the band's top ten album Let It All In.
www.o2academybirmingham.co.uk

Songhoy Blues

Monday, 8pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
This young African band fled their Songhoy homeland in north-eastern Mali when Islamic extremists banned music and have won acclaim for their debut album Music In Exile.
Visit **hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk**

Richard Hawley

Tuesday, 7pm
02 Institute, B'ham
Sheffield's mellow-voiced master of moody and melancholy rock ballads comes to the city on the back of his eighth album Hollow Meadows, meditative musings with a twang.
Visit **o2institutebirmingham.co.uk**

Brick

Thursday - Nov 1
NEC, Birmingham
Next weekend The NEC Birmingham hosts this huge show of all things LEGO. The show promises to be a great day out for families during the half term break.
Visit **www.thenec.co.uk**

POP & ROCK

Fred Zeppelin: Led Zeppelin Tribute
Fri at 12am, £8 - £9
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Soul Legends
Wed at 7.30pm, £25 - £27.90
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

And Finally...Phil Collins: Phil Collins Tribute
Fri at 7.30pm, £19.50
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

BabaJack
Wed at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

All Star 1960s
Tue at 7.30pm, £26 - £28.90
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Modern Minds
Sat at 6pm - 10pm, £6
The Institute, Digbeth, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Foxes
Thu at 7pm, £14
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Ben Montague
Fri at 8pm - 11pm, £10
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Delain
Fri at 6pm, £15
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Richard Hawley
Tue at 7pm, £25
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Ella Henderson
Sun at 7pm, £23.50
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Raymond Froggatt
Thu at 7.30pm, £17
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Glenn Hughes
Mon at 8.30pm, £22.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Donovan
Fri at 8pm, £25 - £30
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Spear Of Destiny
Thu at 7pm, £15.40
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Focus
Sun at 7.30pm, £15 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Andy Fairweather Low
Sat at 7.30pm, £20 - £22
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Gordon Davis: Elvis Presley Tribute
Fri at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Holler
Fri at 5pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

The Vamps
Wed at 8pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Plumhall
Thu at 8pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

The Quik
Fri at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

The Loveless
Sat at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Hothouse Flowers
Fri at 7.30pm, £28 - £29.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Lovers Rock Monologues
Sat at 8pm, £10
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Turbowolf
Wed at 7pm, £9
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Open Mic Night
Mon at 8.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Deathcrusher Tour
Fri at 6.30pm, £25.31
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Santa Cruz
Sat at 7pm, £7
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Seth Lakeman
Thu at 8.30pm, £18
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Dominic Kirwan And Mary Duff
Wed at 7.30pm, £21
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock. Call 01543 578762

The Unthanks
Mon at 8pm, £20
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Session Americana
Tue at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £12.50
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Steve 'N' Seagulls
Tue at 7pm, £10
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Bella Hardy
Wed at 8pm - 10pm, £14 - £15
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

JAZZ & BLUES

Joe Stilgoe: New Songs For Old Souls
Sat at 7.30pm, £18.50
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Sun at 8pm, £18.50
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Marcus Miller
Wed at 7.30pm, £25
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Ryan Trebilcock
Fri at 5pm, Free
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Stephen Hough In Recital
Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm, £9.50 - £35
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

BICS - Valery Gergiev Conducts The Winners Of The 2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition
Wed at 7.30pm - 10pm, £9.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Grimethorpe Colliery Band
Sat at 7.30pm, £19.50
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Viva L'italia
Thu at 7.30pm, £4 - £6.50
Birmingham Conservatoire, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

CBSO 2015-16 - Pictures At An Exhibition
Thu at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £43
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Orpheus
Wed at 7pm, Thu at 7pm, £20
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

The Russian State Ballet And Opera House: The Nutcracker
Thu at 7.30pm - 10pm, £31
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The West End Of Broadway
Fri at 7.30pm, £14 - £15
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Dickens Abridged
Fri at 8pm - 10.30pm, £17
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Tres Tres Cabaret
Fri at 8pm, £15.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Snow Queen
Mon at 7pm, £12 - £17
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

The Glenn Miller Story
Fri at 7.30pm - 9.45pm, Sat at 2.30pm - 4.45pm, £21.50 - £39.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Rambert - Featuring Rooster
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £13.50 - £28.50
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Don't Dress For Dinner
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Anita And Me
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, 7.30pm, £7 - £30
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Priscilla Queen Of The Desert
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £15 - £45
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Oh, Whistle...& The Ash Tree
Tue at 7.30pm, £10 - £15
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Little Frankenstein (Over 5s)
Mon at 2pm - 3pm, £4 - £6
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

Hypnosis: Lichfield Players
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Disney On Ice: Worlds Of Enchantment
Fri at 7pm, Sat at 11am, 3pm, 7pm, Sun at 11am, 3pm, 7pm, Tue at 3pm, Wed at 3pm, Thu at 3pm, 7pm, £19.74 - £46.62
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

How The Koala Learnt To Hug: People's Theatre Company
Mon at 2.30pm, £7.50 - £28
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Annie
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat - Sun at 7.30pm, Sun at 2.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed - Thu at 7.30pmm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £20 - £42.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Blood Brothers
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £19.50 - £32.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

COMEDY

James Acaster: Represent
Thu at 8pm - 11pm, £14
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

One Man Breaking Bad: The Unauthorised Parody
Wed at 7.30pm, £20.35
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Paddy McGuinness: Daddy McGuinness
Thu at 7.30pm, £17.50 - £36
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Patrick Kielty: Help!
Sun at 6.45pm - 11pm, £16
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Ruby Wax: Sane New World
Sun at 7.30pm, £16 - £20
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Thu at 7.30pm, £16 - £20
Palace Theatre, Alcester Street, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Comedy In The Met
Sat at 8pm, £10
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

OTHER EVENTS

Brick 2015
Thu at 11am - 6pm, £20
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

UK fans of Disney On Ice are the best

DISNEY'S most popular characters will be brought to life when some of the world's greatest ice skaters arrive in Birmingham.

Disney On Ice will present Worlds of Enchantment until November 1 at the Barclaycard Arena.

Fans can rev up for non-stop fun with four of their favourite Disney stories. Lightning McQueen, Mater and the crew of Disney/Pixar's Cars will perform high-speed stunts and race across the ice while Ariel and The Little Mermaid's undersea kingdom will give the audience a chance to dive into adventure.

The toys are back in town as Toy Story favourites Buzz Lightyear, Woody and Jessie try to escape from the rambunctious tots of Sunnyside Daycare and youngsters can also enter the wintery world of Arendelle with sisters Anna and Elsa and pals Olaf and Kristoff from Disney's Frozen, as they learn the meaning of true love.

Ice skater Dora Vikar will be among the cast taking to the floor. She is part of the 80-strong Disney entourage who are part of the show.

"We tell the stories that people know from the movies," said Dora. "The present show has four stories in it. It starts with Toy Story, which everybody knows, then it goes into the Little Mermaid, which is another classic. After the intermission, we have Cars and then Frozen is the last segment.

"We have fantastic music and lighting and of course a lot of skating and lots of spins and costumes and tricks. I'm very proud to be part of it. I've been with Disney On Ice for 15 years and I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't love it. It's really fun."

Britain has one of the most enthusiastic audiences for Disney On Ice.

"The UK is fantastic for being very excited," she explained. "We go backstage and we are always saying: 'Did you see that little boy, or the mum, the way they were happy?' People love the show."

"I would say the UK public is really loud and enthusiastic. Toy Story always gets a big reaction in the UK and that's great for me because I'm in that segment a lot, playing Jessie."

See the www.barclaycardarena.co.uk website for further information.

Favourite characters from Disney's Frozen are a perfect match for the ice show

Brothers and sisters show

SINGER Maureen Nolan is following in the footsteps of three of her sisters when she takes on the iconic role of Mrs Johnstone in the musical Blood Brothers, which is being staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

One of the singing siblings The Nolans, who had hits in the UK, Japan, Ireland and Australia during the 1970s and 80s, she first followed sisters Denise, Linda and Bernie into the role ten years ago.

"I had just done my first play in 2004 and I got a call to say would I come and audition for Blood Brothers," said Maureen. "Linda was leaving the West End to go on tour so I auditioned and got the part, and that was ten years ago.

"People laugh at me but I said to someone recently that they'll have to surgically remove me from this part!

"I absolutely love the musical and absolutely love Mrs Johnstone, so it's a winning combination."

She added: "I've done other bits throughout the years, I've done Footloose and various plays, straight plays and comedies, but I always ended up coming back to Blood Brothers."

Maureen will be starring opposite Wet Wet Wet singer Marti Pellow as the Narrator (pictured together right) in the much-loved Liverpudlian drama-musical by Willy Russell.

It is staged at the Grand from Monday to Saturday with tickets starting from £19.50.

See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01902 429212.

Hear Hooton at the Hare and Hounds

ONE of the best new English bands to emerge this summer, Hooton Tennis Club, leave their home on The Wirral for a gig at Birmingham Kings Heath pub venue the Hare and Hounds on Wednesday, October 28.

The High Street venue also hosts the All Years Leaving festival tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday featuring psych band The Wytches, plus Speedy Ortiz, Kagoule, East India Youth, Money and many others.

Mancunian producer Synkro plays Saturday, African band Songhoy Blues on Monday and Leeds singer/songwriter Eaves on Tuesday.

See www.hareandhoundsking sheath.co.uk website.

Silver Sword is brought to stage

A much-loved children's novel is being brought to life on stage in Birmingham next week.

Ian Serraillier's The Silver Sword will be at The Old Rep on Station Road from tonight (Thu) to Saturday.

The classic story of a family forced to flee their homeland because of war is echoed in modern times, though this deals with a Polish family who flee Warsaw in 1940, after the Nazis invade, and aim to reunite in neutral Switzerland.

Adapted by Susie McKenna and Steven Edis, it features animal puppets. Visit website www.oldreptheatre.co.uk or call 0121 3599444.

The Voice of Rock returns to Robin 2

VETERAN rockers feature at Bilston's Robin 2 over three consecutive nights next week.

Dutch progressive rock legends Focus, featuring Thijs Van Leer, are at the Mount Pleasant venue on Sunday. The band had hits in the 70s with Sylvia and Hocus Pocus and have recently re-recorded them using modern techniques. The 'Voice of Rock', AKA Cannock-raised singer and bassist Glenn Hughes, of Trapeze, Deep Purple and Black Country Communion, is in concert on Monday. Then on Tuesday it's a date rescheduled from March for 1970s psychedelic outfit Pink Fairies.

See www.therobin.co.uk

The breezy, light and airy interior of the Cornhouse

Fishy starter – beetroot and vodka cured salmon

Tiled floors and wooden tables and chairs make The Cornhouse a welcoming environment

The Cornhouse restaurant in Shrewsbury

Time for Cornhouse to rise to next level in town's gastro-style race

IT'S been about two years since The Cornhouse opened its doors to an unsuspecting Shropshire public.

By Andy Richardson

The delightful bistro at the foot of Shrewsbury's Wyle Cop had undergone a transformative change. Under its former ownership it had been dark, dingy and distinctly unpalatable.

And then, almost overnight, it was converted by its new owners into a bright and breezy, light and airy venue that produced distinctive and consistently good gastro classics.

The Cornhouse occupies a fabulous location; it's an easy walk for townsfolk and is between two of the town's largest car parks, providing easy access for visitors. It seems to be busy most of the time and earns decent-to-good reviews on TripAdvisor. I just get the feeling, however, that it's ready to move up a level.

The service is pretty good. Two men were working the floor on the evening my friend and I dined. They were exceptional. A slim, dark-haired man was a class act. He'd booked our table earlier and was attentive and engaging throughout. Charming and polite, he ran the show like clockwork, making sure our glasses were always half-full, rather than half-empty. He was a real asset.

The food was pretty good, but could have been better. It was tasty, well-presented and decently-priced – but not particularly memorable. A flash of inspiration, a twist more seasoning, an additional ingredient here and there – those are the things that would have made all the difference.

My friend started with a beetroot-and-vodka-cured salmon dish. Beautifully coloured and with knock-your-socks-off quantities of vodka, it was an accomplished if unspectacular starter. My crispy lamb salad was equally decent. Thin strips of deep-fried pulled lamb were golden and crunchy, contrasting well with the bitter leaves beneath. It was decent, but, in truth, it needed something else.

Crispy

The mains were similar. They were pretty good, decent but unremarkable. I opted for a chilli beef salad. Thin strips of crispy beef were piled high atop an Asian slaw. The plate had been scattered with cashew nuts and drizzled with sweet chilli. The contrasting zing-zang flavours and pleasing textures were a delight. The creaminess of the cashews provided balance against the gentle, just-two-on-the-thermostat heat of the chilli. It was good, but not great; serviceable but unspectacular.

The bangers and mash was also fine. My friend polished off the plate and had no complaints. Though it wasn't food that captured the imagination, the ingredients were of a good quality and had been pleasantly cooked.

A warm waffle and ice cream finished off my friend's evening – and probably made his trousers a little tighter than they were at the start of the evening. Again, it was pleasant and enjoyable, if not unremarkable. I ate lemon tart, which was served with tart berries. It was so-so.

The Cornhouse has established itself as a popular and respected venue during two hard years of trading. Running restaurants is no easy game and the owners deserve all credit for their work. It's time now, however, to push on and reach the next level.

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Spend a day admiring Niagara Falls and perhaps choose to take an optional helicopter flight over the Falls for a bird's eye view. Alternatively enjoy lunch in a restaurant (payable locally) overlooking this fabulous natural wonder.

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CHOICE

Peter Capaldi

Doctor Who (BBC1, 8.20pm)
Last week, the gallivanting Gallifreyan and his sidekick arrived in Britain during Viking times, where they helped save villagers from destruction and met a mysterious young woman who captivated the Doctor. Now he and Clara are off on their travels again, this time turning up in England in 1651. They've hardly had time to step out of the Tardis before they're confronted by The Knightmare, a highwayman who, along with his assistant, stalks the dark streets of London. The robber is certainly a vicious chap, but the Time Lord realises there's more to him than meets the eye - or at least, he has a mysterious force behind him. But perhaps most remarkably, the adventure will reunite the Doctor with a couple of very familiar faces...

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. **4.00** Final Score. **5.30** BBC News. **5.40** Regional Programme. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities.

6.35 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present another round of pro-celebrity ballroom action as the celebrity hoofers who upset the judges in earlier editions try to do better – and hope to avoid the same fate as last week's eliminated couple – while those who have shown early promise aim to climb further up the leaderboard. Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell are the ones to impress as the hopefuls perform a mixture of routines, looking to avoid following the likes of Iwan Thomas and Anthony Ogogo out of the competition.

8.20 Doctor Who. A deadly highwayman going by the name of Knightmare stalks the dark streets of 17th-century London, but after finding some mysterious loot that's clearly not of this world, he comes face to face with the Doctor, who is on the trail of an alien artefact.

9.10 Casualty. Jacob persuades a harassed teacher to accept help, but he needs to take his own advice. Hospital drama, starring William Beck and Lee Mead.

10.00 The National Lottery Live. The all-important winning numbers, including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, are revealed, with special guests Nile Rodgers and Emin pushing the Lotto button.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest top-flight matches, including Arsenal v Everton at the Emirates Stadium and West Ham United v Chelsea at Upton Park; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Apprentice. The candidates are tasked with finding nine items for the best possible price in a test of their negotiation skills, with the search taking place on the Kent coast and in France. (R)

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.55 BBC News.

BBC2

6.40 Film: The Magic Box. (1951) **8.25 Film:** Angels One Five. (1953) **10.00** Animal Park. (R) **11.00** Animal SOS. (R) **11.30** Animal SOS. (R) **12.00** The Great British Bake Off – Masterclass. (R) **1.00** Hollywood Actresses Talking Pictures. **1.50 Film:** Gypsy. (1962) **4.10** Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish. (R) **5.10** World's Weirdest Events. (R)

6.10 Flog It! Mark Stacey and Adam Partridge search for antiques in Bangor, North Wales, and Paul Martin hears Lord Anglesey's memories of Rex Whistler painting the famous mural at Plas Newydd. (R)

7.00 Gardeners' World. Monty Don takes stock of his year at Longmeadow, while Carol Klein celebrates the impressive displays put on by flowering plants to attract pollinators. Last in the series. (R)

7.30 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels the Habsburg imperial line from Vienna across the impressive Semmering Pass, a railway line blasted through the Alps, as he make his way onward to Trieste.

8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring's men acquire a boat, planning to use it for coastal patrols, but they get lost in fog and believe they have crossed the Channel when they finally reach dry land. Last in the series. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz with a difference, with guests Sheila Hancock, Jimmy Carr and Jeremy Clarkson joining regular panellist Alan Davies.

9.45 Formula 1: US Grand Prix – Qualifying Highlights. Suzi Perry presents the key moments from the battle for pole position in the 16th round of the campaign, held at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.

11.00 Top Coppers. The world's greatest art thief and Frenchman, Gerard Cliche, is in town, while Mahogany and Rust are aiming to win the Golden Doughnut prize. (R)

11.30 Film: The Quiet American. (2002) A British journalist in 1950s Vietnam befriends an American aid worker, but suspects his new acquaintance is not all he appears to be. Drama, with Michael Caine.

1.00 Film: The Night of the Generals. (1967) **2.20** (GMT) This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Fish Hooks. **7.25** Adventure Time. **7.45** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.15** Countrywise. (R) **10.45** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.50** ITV News; Weather. **11.55** Downton Abbey. (R) **1.00** The X Factor. (R) **3.00** Rugby World Cup. Coverage of the first semi-final (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.40 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. New series. TV presenters Fiona Bruce, Rick Edwards, Kate Humble and Joe Swash pit their general knowledge against a trivia expert as they try to win thousands of pounds for charity. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser. Bradley Walsh hosts.

8.00 The X Factor. Olly Murs and Caroline Flack present the next stage of the talent show, as the 24 acts to make it into the four categories – Overs, Groups, Girls and Boys – complete their training in the judges' house and return to the London studio to perform once again in the hope of impressing the judges and the public. At the end of the show, half the acts featured will be eliminated from the contest.

10.25 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Doc Martin star Martin Clunes, Strictly Come Dancing judge Darcey Bussell and actor Nick Frost. Plus, music by John Newman.

11.30 ITV News; Weather.

11.45 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Action from the opening semi-final, which took place at Twickenham. The stakes were high as a place in the showpiece game next Saturday awaited one of the teams.

12.30 ITV Changed My Life. Documentary focusing on how ITV shows have shaped people's destinies. (R) **1.25** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas. **3.00** (GMT) Show Me the Telly. Quiz show, hosted by Richard Bacon. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **11.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **11.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of races from Doncaster, Cheltenham and Newbury. **4.05** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Channel 4 News.

6.05 Location, Location, Location. Revisiting two couples – Chris and Nicola from Hastings and Trudi and Steve from Edinburgh – who were looking to find homes nine years ago. (R)

7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Stephen Yeoman and Anita Findlay, who want to build a cutting-edge, post-industrial house covered in rusty metal. However, their prominent riverside plot in the traditional and architecturally conservative area of South Downs means everyone will be watching. The project proves to be a real rollercoaster when the fitting of the rusty steel cladding goes wrong, cash flow problems threaten to bring work to a halt, and the couple announce that a baby is on the way. (R)

8.00 The Sex Change Spitfire Ace. This Secret History documentary tells the story of the unique relationship between two of the most remarkable pioneers of the 20th century – Michael Dillon and Roberta Cowell.

9.00 It Was Alright in the 1980s. Matt Lucas narrates another look back at TV shows from past decades, revisiting the time of revolution on the small screen in the 1980s.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 TFI Friday. Chris Evans hosts the lively entertainment show, with guests including Justin Bieber, Dawn French, Macklemore & Lewis, Nicholas Hoult and Hurts. (R)

12.10 Fargo. (R) **1.05 Film:** The Fourth Kind. (2009) **1.40** (GMT) Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.35** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.50** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **4.55** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.05** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.35** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.30 Film:** Paper Angels. (2014) Festive drama, starring Josie Bissett. **2.15 Film:** Columbo: A Case of Immunity. (1975) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.45 Film:** Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind. (1975) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.10 Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring people who crash weddings, sporting fails and flops, and science experiments.

7.05 Psycho Pussies: When Cats Attack. Documentary, made by the team behind Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud, using online clips and live case studies to explore the dangerous side of the domestic feline. The programme draws links between big cats in the wild and their tame cousins, and provides first-hand testimony of the worst cat attacks in Britain – cases in which people have been hospitalised, and cats have literally punctured arteries. (R)

8.05 5 News Weekend.

8.10 The Gadget Show. Amy Williams and Jason Bradbury check out the latest health apps, Jon Bentley reveals which tech can help keep car insurance costs low, and there is a look at next-generation TVs. (R)

9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present highlights of the weekend's matches, including Blackburn Rovers v Burnley at Ewood Park, Brentford v Charlton Athletic at Griffin Park, and Rotherham United v Sheffield Wednesday at New York Stadium in the Championship. Plus, Peterborough United v Doncaster Rovers at London Road in League One and Portsmouth v Mansfield Town at Fratton Park in League Two.

10.25 Film: The Fifth Element. (1997) A 23rd-century New York cab driver protects a mysterious woman destined to save the world from destruction. Sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis.

12.50 Star Trek: The True Story. (R) **1.40** SuperCasino. **3.10** (GMT) Gift of Life. (R) **4.00** Secrets of the Scammers. (R) **4.55** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00 Film:** I Know What You Did Last Summer (1997) **11.40** Family Guy **1.50** Asian Provocateur **1.20** (GMT) Russell Howard's Good News **1.50** Russell Howard's Good News **2.20** The Fear **2.50** Great TV Mistakes **3.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Timewatch: Captain Cook – The Man Behind the Legend **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **9.00** Arne Dahl: Requiem Part 1 **10.00** Arne Dahl: Requiem Part 2 **11.00** Psychedelic Britannia **12.00** Totally 60s Psychedelic Rock at the BBC **1.00** Arena: Magical Mystery Tour Revisited **1.00** (GMT) Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.35** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **2.35** Close

ITV2
11.25 Coronation Street **2.00** Tricked **3.00** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **4.00** You've Been Framed! **4.35 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **6.40 Film:** Lost in Space (1998) **9.20** James Bond's Spectre – With Jonathan Ross **10.25** The Xtra Factor **11.25** Celebrity Juice **12.10** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **1.10** Tricked **1.05 Film:** (GMT) Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (2009) **3.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.40 Inspector Morse **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Inspector Morse **1.05** (GMT) Wycliffe **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.05 Pawn Stars **12.25** MotoGP Highlights **1.30** British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.05 Film:** Field of Dreams (1989) **5.10 Film:** Superman IV: The Quest for Peace (1987) **7.00** Storage Wars **8.00 Film:** Open Range (2003) **10.45 Film:** High Plains Drifter (1973) **1.00** The Cycle Show **1.00** (GMT) The Cycle Show **2.05** Minder **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 Film: A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures (2010) **1.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **1.30** The Goldbergs **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.30** The Big Bang Theory: Top 5 Sheldon **9.00 Film:** Skyline (2010) **10.50** The Inbetweeners **11.55** The IT Crowd **1.00** Tattoos After Dark **1.00** (GMT) The Inbetweeners **1.35** The Inbetweeners **2.00** Rules of Engagement **2.45** Suburgatory **3.50** Rules of Engagement **5.00** Revenge

Film4
11.00 The Rare Breed (1966) **1.00** Mirror Mirror (2012) **3.15** Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) **5.45** Australia (2008) **9.00** Faster (2010) **10.55** Spring Breakers (2012) **12.45** The Reef (2010) **1.25** (GMT) Inferno (1980) **3.30** Close

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The Royal School Wolverhampton

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Royal School's proposal for a Free School

The proposal for the new Free School at The Royal School Wolverhampton from September 2016 has now progressed to the pre-opening phase and is undertaking a public consultation period from **19 October, 2015, to 4 December, 2015.**

The consultation document outlining the proposal can be read at **www.theroyalschool.co.uk**

There is also a short questionnaire which you are invited to download, complete and return to the school. Printed versions of the consultation document and questionnaire can be obtained by calling the school reception on **01902 341230.**

All responses need to be submitted before **4 December, 2015.**

To find out more about our Free School proposal you are invited to attend our consultation evening on **12 November, 2015, 7.30-8.30pm at The Royal School, Penn Road, Wolverhampton WV3 0EG.**

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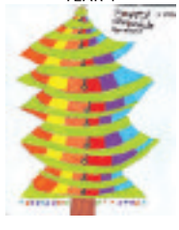

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CHOICE

Tom Bateman

Jekyll and Hyde (ITV, 6.30pm)

New fantasy adventure series inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's novel. The grandson of the infamous Dr Jekyll returns to London from Ceylon in the 1930s when he receives an inheritance. As he delves into his family's mysterious past, he does not realise he is being pursued by members of a secret society – while a ruthless spymaster intends to use him as bait for a trap. Tom Bateman and Richard E Grant head the cast, while the scripts have been written by Charlie Higson of The Fast Show fame. Natalie Gumede, Donald Sumpter, Stephanie Hyam, Enzo Cilenti, Christian McKay, Michael Karim, Robin Hooper and Thomas Coombes make up the supporting cast.

BBC1

6.00 (GMT) Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Autumn's Supermarket Secrets. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** DIY SOS: Homes for Veterans. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Shauna Lowry explore North Wales, meeting a family that fishes for mussels using traditional methods, discovering how a breed of Portuguese horse is being kept on the Llyn Peninsula and visiting a school that keeps both chickens and bees. Plus, Sean Fletcher meets residents of a village who were displaced by the building of a reservoir 50 years previously, and Adam Henson pays tribute to his father, who died recently.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges, and veteran rocker Bryan Adams performs.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Bolsover Castle in Derbyshire. Finds on display include original illustrations for Roald Dahl's book Fantastic Mr Fox, a set of motorcyclist Barry Sheene's racing leathers, a collection of Star Wars toys, a mysterious metal rod that proves to be far more valuable than it appears and a miniature house used for training plumbers. A visitor to the show tries to find a glass figure for her mother, to replace one that exploded.

9.00 From Darkness. Claire's confession leaves John devastated, and she makes a desperate attempt to use Lucy's obsession against her – but the plan places her own family in danger. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Formula 1: US Grand Prix – Highlights. Suzi Perry presents the key moments from the 16th round of the campaign.

12.00 Film: Wake Wood. (2010) Horror, with Aidan Gillen. **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 (GMT) Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **6.45** The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.45** Countryfile Autumn Special. (R) **8.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** The Great British Bake Off – Masterclass. (R) **11.45** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** NFL Live. **5.00** The Railway: Keeping Britain on Track. (R)

6.00 Britain's Classroom Heroes 2015. Dan Snow presents an awards ceremony from the Royal Opera House celebrating Britain's best teachers. Featuring a performance from the cast of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

7.00 Caribbean with Simon Reeve. The adventurer travels around the islands and mainland coast of the Caribbean Sea, beginning by visiting the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Puerto Rico. (R)

8.00 Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish. Ben Fogle takes the contestants to Laos, where they must fish in the widest rapids in the world using traditional bamboo poles and lines and cast netting from small wooden boats.

9.00 Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. The Red Arrow pilots mark the end of an era and go through gruelling underwater training ahead of a display at Blackpool. However, high winds threaten to scupper the event.

10.00 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, including Manchester United v Manchester City at Old Trafford and Sunderland v Newcastle United at the Stadium of Light.

11.20 Family Guy. Quagmire accidentally marries a prostitute during a drunken visit to the Harvard University campus, and tries to prove he is gay in an effort to rid himself of his new wife.

11.40 Family Guy. Meg goes on a Valentine's Day date with a guy she met online, Brian is visited by all of his former girlfriends and Quagmire is transformed into a beautiful woman.

12.00 Film: Trishna. (2011) An Indian woman begins a secret relationship with her employer, but fears she has made a terrible mistake as he grows more distant. Romantic drama, with Freida Pinto and Riz Ahmed. **1.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile Autumn Special. (R) **2.45** Holby City. (R) **3.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 (GMT) CITV: (GMT) Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Fish Hooks. **7.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **7.45** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.00** Horrible Science. **9.25** FIA Formula E Championship. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** The X Factor. (R) **3.00** Rugby World Cup. Coverage of the second semi-final (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.20 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Jekyll and Hyde. New series. Fantasy adventure series inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's novel.

7.30 The X Factor. Olly Murs and Caroline Flack present the next stage of the talent show, as the 24 acts to make it into the four categories – Overs, Groups, Girls and Boys – complete their training in the judges' house and return to the London studio to perform once again in the hope of impressing the judges and the public. At the end of the show, half the acts featured will be eliminated from the contest.

9.00 Downton Abbey. Tensions between Violet and Cora come to a head as the house is made open to the public to raise money for the hospital. Baxter is thrown into turmoil by an unexpected letter.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Action from the concluding semi-final at Twickenham, as the line-up for next weekend's final was decided.

11.05 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the second round of fixtures, which included Gloucester v Saracens, Sale Sharks v Worcester and Northampton Saints v Newcastle Falcons.

12.05 River Monsters. Jeremy Wade travels to Florida following reports of fatal attacks in its waterways, trying to track down a survivor to find out how to catch one of his most fearsome adversaries. (R) **12.35** Jackpot247. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 (GMT) Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **6.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Plusnet Yorkshire Marathon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55 Film:** Furry Vengeance. (2010) Family comedy, starring Brendan Fraser. **3.45 Film:** Dr Seuss' The Lorax. (2012) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Danny DeVito. **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Homes by the Sea. Charlie Luxton examines properties on the Solway coast of Dumfries and Galloway, including a modern home that sits on top of a 100 foot cliff in In Sandyhills Bay. He also heads for the picturesque port of Kirkcudbright, where he explores a home that takes its inspiration partly from local lighthouses and a Russian architectural masterpiece. Plus, a restored 15th century tower house at Barholm, near Gatehouse of Fleet, and a shoreline Cotswolds-style house at Arbigland.

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales go in search of the lost route between London and the sea, which has not been fully open for over 200 years and requires four different boats to traverse now. They leave the Thames at Teddington and travel through the Surrey and Sussex countryside before arriving at Guildford, and a canal-side theatre where they have both regularly performed. The final leg of the trip brings them to the River Arun before reaching the English Channel.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie revisits her past, while Quinn stalks his prey. Political thriller, starring Claire Danes.

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson are joined by Reginald D Hunter and Aisling Bea, while Holly Walsh is in Dictionary Corner with Susie Dent. (R)

11.05 Film: Killing Them Softly. (2012) Crime thriller, starring Brad Pitt, James Gandolfini and Ray Liotta.

12.55 Grand Designs Australia. **1.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.45** Food Unwrapped. (R) **4.10** Four Rooms. **5.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 (GMT) Milkshake!: (GMT) Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.25** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.20** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.35** Football League Tonight. (R) **10.00** Great South Run. **12.30** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **12.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.40 Film:** Loch Ness. (1996) Family drama, starring Ted Danson. **3.40 Film:** The Shaggy Dog. (2006) Comedy remake, starring Tim Allen. **5.30 Film:** Peter Pan. (1953) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Bobby Driscoll.

7.00 5 News Weekend.

7.05 Film: Rush Hour. (1998) A Hong Kong detective is sent to Los Angeles to investigate a kidnapping, but the local authorities worry that his presence in America might spark an international incident, and assign a loud-mouthed and troublesome cop to keep an eye on him. However, the new partnership proves an explosive combination. Comedy adventure, starring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Ken Leung, Tom Wilkinson and Chris Penn. Edited for language and violence.

9.00 MTV European Music Awards 2015. Coverage of the music awards, presented by Ed Sheeran and Ruby Rose from Milan's Mediolanum Forum. This year's nominees for best female artist are Taylor Swift, Nicki Minaj, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus and Rihanna, while in the running for best male are Pharrell Williams, who will perform the show's opening number, Justin Bieber, Kanye West, Jason Derulo and Ed Sheeran. Other nominees include One Direction, Ellie Goulding, Little Mix, Jess Glynne, Coldplay, Muse, Florence + the Machine, Dizzee Rascal and Rita Ora.

11.05 20 Moments That Shocked Pop. Countdown of significant performers, songs or occasions that impacted the genre, including 1985's global Live Aid event, which redefined how society donated to charity. (R)

12.25 Film: The House Bunny. (2008) Comedy, with Anna Faris and Colin Hanks. **2.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 (GMT) Top Gear **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00 Film:** Hannibal Rising (2007) **12.00** Family Guy **12.45** The Fear **1.15** Together **1.45** Asian Provocateur **2.15** Russell Howard's Good News **3.15** Together **3.45** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **3.55** Close

BBC Four

7.00 (GMT) Timeshift: The People's Liners – Britain's Lost Pleasure Fleets **8.00** The Somme: Secret Tunnel Wars **9.00** Every Breath We Take: Understanding Our Atmosphere **10.00 Film:** False Trail (2011) **12.05** The End of the World? A Horizon Guide to Armageddon **1.05** Timeshift: When Wrestling was Golden – Grapples, Grunts and Grannies **2.05** Timeshift: When the Circus Comes to Town **3.05** Britain on Film: Road, Rail and Runways **3.35** Close

ITV2

11.35 Coronation Street **2.05 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **4.25 Film:** Back to the Future Part II (1989) **6.35 Film:** Back to the Future Part III (1990) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00 Film:** Knocked Up (2007) **12.40** Viral Tap **1.20** Reality Bites **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.05 Inspector Morse **2.20** Lewis **4.10** Midsomer Murders **6.10** Countrywise: The Real Downton Abbey **7.15** Wycliffe **9.00** Les Dawson: An Audience With That Never Was **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30 Film:** Angela's Ashes (1999) **1.25** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.05** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

12.10 Rugby World Cup Highlights **12.55** The Car Chasers **1.55** Pawn Stars **3.50** Storage Wars: New York **4.50 Film:** Field of Dreams (1989) **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Two Mules for Sister Sara (1970) **11.20 Film:** Air America (1990) **1.40** Whisker Wars **2.10** I Want That Car

E4

12.30 Hollyoaks Does Come Dine with Me **3.05** Rude(ish) Tube **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) **10.05** Gogglebox **11.40** The IT Crowd **12.45** Drifters **1.20** Chewing Gum **1.50** How to Show Off Your Talent **2.20** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.40** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** 2 Broke Girls **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 (GMT) The Overlanders (1946) **1.00** Coraline (2009) **3.05** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) **5.05** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **6.40** Mission: Impossible 2 (2000) **9.00** The Grey (2011) **11.15** The Change-Up (2011) **1.25** Volver (2006)

Chronicle Christmas Card Challenge

The Chronicle Crew set school kids from **Harvills Hawthorn Primary** the Chronicle Christmas Card Challenge and on pages 28 and 29 we have printed their superb designs. Now all we want you to do, is choose your favourite and send your nomination to us. The designer with the most votes will be presented with their Christmas Card, framed and will receive a set of cards to send out to their family and friends.

As part of the prize, the Chronicle will donate £50 towards the School Funds

Please send your completed nomination form to:

Chronicle Christmas Card Challenge
Sandwell Chronicle Advertising Department
Black Lake, West Bromwich, B70 0QB

Thank you for voting!

Closing date for nominations is Friday 30th October 2013. Nominations from under 16s will require a parents'/guardians' signature. Photocopies of this nomination form will not be accepted. Only one nomination per household. Competition entrants may not vote for their own entry. The winner will be the child with the most entries. In the event of a tie an independent Chronicle representative will decide.

Chronicle Christmas Card Challenge Nominaton Form

Winning entry (card number) .....

Sponsored by .....

Your name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Tel. No. .....

I have read the rules and agree to abide by them

Signature .....
(Parent/guardian if applicable)

★ Turn to pages 28 and 29 to view entries

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela, Channel 4, 1.10am
Adaptation of Romeo and Juliet set in a Gujarati village where the Rajadis and Saneras have been feuding for 500 years. Ram meets and falls in love with Leela and their love is intense, but so is the enmity between their families and their relationship leads to bloodshed and tragedy. Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone take the roles of the star-crossed lovers in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's reworking of Shakespeare's classic. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
The Broken Circle Breakdown, Channel 4, 1.25am
Tattoo artist Elise meets bluegrass singer Didier at one of his concerts and they fall in love after bonding over their shared enthusiasm for American music. They marry and have a daughter, but face heart-wrenching tragedy. Belgian romantic drama, starring Johan Heldenbergh and Veerle Baetens. In Flemish and English. (2012)

King Arthur, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY
King Arthur, Channel 5, 10pm
A Roman commander is posted to Britain in the last days of the empire and given a final mission to rescue a high-ranking official and his son stranded in the north. However, the endeavour reveals his true destiny is to lead the Britons against the new Saxon invasion. Historical adventure, starring Clive Owen, Keira Knightley, Ray Winstone and Stephen Dillane. (2004)

FRIDAY
Hollywood Homicide, BBC1, 11.50pm
Two cops are put to the test by the baffling case of a rapper murdered on stage, but they are more concerned with escaping the daily grind of catching crooks. Action comedy, starring Harrison Ford, Josh Hartnett and Lena Olin. (2003)
Witchfinder General, BBC2, 12.35am
A lawyer callously destroys innocent lives while performing his duties as a witchfinder, earning a terrifying reputation for brutality and injustice. Michael Reeves' 17th-century period horror, with Vincent Price, Ian Ogilvy, Rupert Davies and Hilary Dwyer. (1968)

The Doc comes to the aid of an American tourist

As with most picturesque Cornish seaside towns, Portwenn is no stranger to visitors. Over the past few years, the fishing village which Martin Ellingham calls home has welcomed the likes of Ben Miller, Chris O'Dowd and most recently Caroline Quentin.

However, even the busy streets of Portwenn real-life alter-ego, Port Isaac, have probably never witnessed such a throng of stars.

Not only do British talent Kelly Adams (Mr Selfridge) and Gemma Jones (Bridget Jones' Diary) grace the narrow streets tonight, there is also a cameo role from Hollywood A-lister Sigourney Weaver (Aliens).

Doc Martin star Martin Clunes revealed that Weaver was a big fan of the comedy drama and jumped at the chance of featuring in some small way.

Tonight she briefly plays an American tourist who bumps into the grumpy medic. It's not wonder he's in that mood either.

The doctor and Louisa (Caroline Catz) receive an intriguing invitation from Dr Timoney (Emily Bevan) to attend additional therapy sessions.

This aspect of the current series has provided laughs and insightful moment in abundance, and it is pleasing to realise the cast have enjoyed those scenes as much as we have.

Catz revealed: "You really do feel like you are in the session, and you go to the heart of what Dr Timoney is trying to tease out of both of them and you can see how difficult it is for them to deal with it.

"It is putting them in extreme and uncomfortable situations which makes it feel fresh."

For once though, it seems Dr Timoney may be on the receiving end of assistance when she is involved in a car accident outside the school.

Inside the building there is trouble of a different kind when the new art teacher (guest-star Adams) angers Louisa with her rather unorthodox methods.

However, there is good news on the horizon for one of the series' most popular characters – and it's long overdue for poor PC Joe Penhale. It may not have escaped your attention but the unlucky-in-love constable isn't exactly the best at his job.

Fortunately for him, sleepy Portwenn's crime figures are lower than Doc Martin's tolerance for blood, but the chief of police thinks the lack of crime is due to Penhale's excellent policing and offers him a promotion to Exeter.

Penhale is initially confused by this turn of events, but actor John Marquez knows that his character will be delighted. "The move is what he has always wanted in his life. It has been his dream to have his work noticed and respected. It's a dream to go and work in the big city and have a better job," he said. So, it looks like Portwenn could be losing one of it's most-loved characters – but will any of the residents be bothered?

Another character facing a change is Bert Large (Ian McNeice), whose financial problems with the restaurant have given him no end of trouble. In tonight's episode, he has to face his past and return to life as a handyman.

Sigourney Weaver appears in Doc Martin, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Fargo
Channel 4, 10pm
The events at the diner continue to have repercussions for various people on both sides of the law in the towns of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Luverne, Minnesota. Gerhardt crime family matriarch Floyd and her boys receive a surprising offer, while two unlikely murderers try their best to clean up the mess they have made. Noah Hawley's black comedy drama inspired by the Coen brothers' film of the same name, starring Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Plemons and Patrick Wilson.

TUESDAY
River
BBC1, 9pm
With his career resting on the outcome of his psychiatric report, the detective keeps his unofficial investigation into Stevie's death to himself. Tensions run high with his new partner Ira, who fears being dragged down by River's instability, while Chrissie needs him to investigate a suspicious workplace accident that has left a foreman fighting for his life. However, his mind is elsewhere as he discovers that Stevie had been keeping secrets from him, forcing him to reassess how well he really knew his best friend and colleague.

Catastrophe
Channel 4, 10pm
Sharon Horgan and Rob Delaney's charming and well-received romcom about an Irish woman and American man whose week-long affair leads to a pregnancy and subsequent tumultuous relationship, returns. The strength of the first series, which ended in February, was its intention not to shy away from the messy and awkward complications that naturally occur during a fledgling romance. And this new run begins in the same vein as the mismatched couple welcome their newborn into the world.

WEDNESDAY
Cuffs
BBC1, 8pm
You're probably thinking that the last thing British telly needs right now is another crime drama – after all, we've had the likes of From Darkness, Unforgotten and River thrust upon us in recent weeks. However, the BBC promises that this is a little different. Where the aforementioned trio focus on investigations into particular crimes, Cuffs is more about the officers themselves, the bobbies on the beat who are on the frontline every day, coming face-to-face with members of the public. We'll see them deal with everything life can throw at them, from a booby-trapped cannibis farm in a suburban semi and an elderly farmer's wife with a shotgun, to middle-class dog-napping, fisticuffs between pensioners and Saturday night drinkers.

Catastrophe, Tuesday, Channel 4, 10pm

My Mania and Me
Channel 4, 11pm
We've all given in to temptation every now and then, even if that means just having an extra biscuit with a cup of tea. But the four women featured in this eye-opening documentary can't stop themselves from giving in to their wildest desires. Kim cannot stop stealing, Crystal has to have sex every day, Hayley is gambling away her family's fortunes and Kezia spends thousands on clothes she never wears.

THURSDAY
Unforgotten
ITV, 9pm
As the investigation into the cold-case murder continues, the forensic team discovers that the marks on the victim's body are consistent with known gangland torture methods. With this in mind, Cassie and Sunny question Sir Phillip about his involvement with a prominent East End crime family 40 years ago. Did the businessman or any of the shady associates of his youth have anything to do with Jimmy's disappearance or murder? Meanwhile, Eric and Claire's anniversary gets under way. Crime drama, starring Nicola Walker, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Trevor Eve and Tom Courtenay.

FRIDAY
Faking the Moon Landings: Conspiracy
Channel 5, 8pm
Historians, scientists and former Nasa employees examine evidence that journalist Marcus Allen claims proves that the moon landings were a hoax. Cameras capture the moment former astronaut Buzz Aldrin punches film-maker Bart Sibrel in response to the accusation. Plus, British computer hacker Gary McKinnon's claims to have discovered the USA has a secret space fleet in orbit powered by alien technology.

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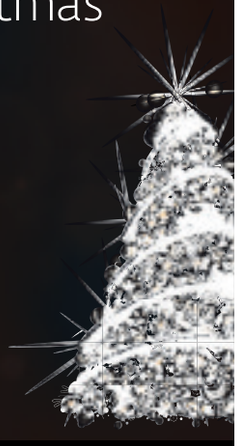

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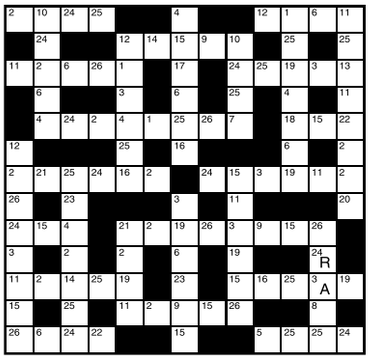
Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 22, 2015

BRAIN GYM No.348

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



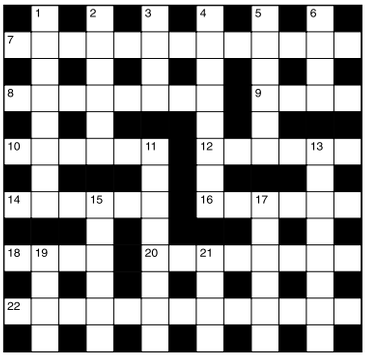
1	14
2	15
3 A	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24 R
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Y	R	M	W	B	Q	A	K	X	U	D	V	I
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	S	H	E	J	L	P	G	Z	T	O	N	C

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. This causes ill-feeling in temperament (13)
8. One professing angelic virtues has broken harp, I notice (8)
9. See 18 Across
10. Rearrange the poster quickly (6)
12. Interwoven mass of seaweed (6)
14. Occupant at home with friend (6)
16. It's any diversion from commonsense (6)
18 & 9Ac. Unmatched description of a meeting of the common people (8)
20. Putting in position, we hear, for getting on target (8)
22. The prospects of flying observers (5-3,5)

Down

1. Like an escaped convict during the race (2,3,3)
2. Remits an amended order for these joints (6)
3. Work in a shop, usually (4)
4. Boss involved with seat of fireproof material (8)
5. Taken from Bristol environment (6)
6. Assumes the dress of lecturers in advanced education (4)
11. One superior to a visionary? (8)
13. Does this appear in the obituary column? (4,4)
15. Wear away a piece of ribbon, by the sound of it (6)
17. Being a fool a twin is confused by it (6)
19. Send out when sentence is up (4)
21. Song providing impish enjoyment (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Burglary (5-8)
8. Protector (8)
9. Carry on (4)
12. Cows (6)
14. Attack (6)
16. Increase (4,2)
18. Tasty morsel (6)
18. Goad (4)
20. Violent change (8)
22. Accidentally (13)

Down

1. Prophesy (8)
2. Climb (6)
3. Retired (4)
4. Last (8)
5. Meat-pin (6)
6. Hidden difficulty (4)
11. Married (8)
13. Adequate (8)
15. Display (6)
17. Exhausts (6)
19. Throe (4)
21. Detest (4)

Sudoku

		2		5			3	7
	5			8			9	
					2		5	1
5	8			2	4	3		
		4				2		8
		7	6				4	9
6	4		7		1			
				4		1	8	
1	2			9				

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	4	6	3	9	2	7	5	8
3	9	7	8	5	4	1	2	6
5	2	8	6	7	1	3	4	9
8	1	9	5	3	7	4	6	2
4	6	2	1	8	9	5	3	7
7	5	3	2	4	6	8	9	1
6	7	5	4	2	8	9	1	3
2	8	4	9	1	3	6	7	5
9	3	1	7	6	5	2	8	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Lima; 8 Blank verse; 9 Live bait; 10 Abet; 12 Dismay; 14 Scrape; 15 Hammer; 17 Morose; 18 Lean; 19 Veracity; 21 Accusative; 22 Wind. Down: 2 Intimidate; 3 Able; 4 Galaxy; 5 Skates; 6 Repairer; 7 Beat; 11 Exposition; 13 Momentum; 16 Reveal; 17 Margin; 18 Liar; 20 Crew. QUICK - Across: 1 Dais; 8 Triumphant; 9 Complete; 10 Sled; 12 Prompt; 14 Evince; 15 Static; 17 Treble; 18 Acid; 19 Minister; 21 Scurrilous; 22 Open. Down: 2 Autocratic; 3 Stop; 4 Silent; 5 Impede; 6 Chastise; 7 Stud; 11 Excellence; 13 Matadors; 16 Commit; 17 Tendon; 18 Also; 20 So-so.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What does the Latin term sub judice mean?
2. What is the currency of Venezuela?
3. Who was the first president of the US to die in office?
4. In the Bible, what was the home town of Abraham?
5. What name is applied to the poets Wordsworth, Southey and Coleridge?
6. In what year was the Battle of Trafalgar?
7. What is the star Sirius better known as?
8. What is a narghile?
9. In which Australian state is Wagga Wagga?
10. Who was the mythical son of Laius and Jocasta?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Naboth; 2 Woodpecker; 3 The valkyries; 4 New York City; 5 Australia; 6 Zither; 7 The Tate Gallery; 8 Damascus; 9 With carrots; 10 Forces chaplain.

Niner: COASTLINE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

397 gives a boy's name,
65489 gives a girl's name,
125467 gives a boy's name.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Humphrey Middlemore Drive,

Spacious Bungalow offering versatile living space with two bedrooms, living room, conservatory, bathroom, guest WC, fitted kitchen, off road parking, detached garage & rear garden. The property enjoys an attractive position in Harborne. No Upward Chain..

Offers Around £225,000

Colman Crescent, OLDBURY,

The property comprises, porch, refitted kitchen, two reception rooms, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens, garage. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE!!!

Offers Around £149,950

Pritchard Close, SMETHWICK,

A beautifully presented town house comprising, hallway, fitted kitchen, lounge, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens. Close to shops, schools, transport links etc. No Upward Chain!

Offers Around £119,950

Devon Road, BEARWOOD,

DOUBLE FRONTED PROPERTY set over three floors comprising of Porch, Hallway, Two Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility with WC, Five Bedrooms, Bathroom, En Suite Shower Room, Driveway, Garage, Brick Built Workshop, Rear Garden.

Offers Around £359,950

Alwin Road, ROWLEY REGIS,

A three bedroom detached property with NO ONWARD CHAIN, the property briefly comprises: entrance hall, living room, kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms and bathroom, front and rear gardens, off street parking

Offers Around £155,000

William Savage Way, SMETHWICK,

A modern detached property comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms (master en-suite), family bathroom, D/G and C/H, front & rear gardens, garage, driveway.

Offers Around £225,000

Hugh Road, SMETHWICK,

Opportunity to purchase A THREE DOUBLE BEDROOM extended family home with hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen/diner, refitted family bathroom, study, front and rear gardens, double glazed and centrally heated.

Offers Around £166,950

ARE YOU LOOKING TO SELL?

CALL NOW FOR YOUR **FREE** VALUATION!

Arden Road, SMETHWICK,

Refurbished family home; two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, refitted ground floor bathroom,three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, DG,CH,front and rear gardens. No onward chain.

Offers Around £129,950

Edgbaston Road, SMETHWICK,

Refurbished family home comprising, vestibule, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, breakfast/ kitchen, three good sized bedrooms, master bedroom opening onto Juliette style balcony, family bathroom, double glazing, central heating,

Offers Over £165,000

Stony Lane, SMETHWICK,

A spacious well maintained family home comprising, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, three good sized bedrooms, upstairs family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear

Offers Around £122,500

Clifton Road, SMETHWICK,

Well presented family home comprising, through lounge, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens. Ideal First Time Purchase/Investment.

Offers Around £107,950

Brisbane Road, SMETHWICK,

Immaculately refurbished family home comprising, hallway, through lounge, refitted kitchen, three good sized bedrooms, refitted bathroom, well presented rear garden, double glazed and centrally heated. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE! NO ONWARD CHAIN!

Offers Around £129,950

Moat Road, OLDBURY,

Extended Family Home; porch, entrance hallway, through lounge, refitted extended kitchen/diner, cloakroom, three double bedrooms, refitted extended family bathroom, well maintained rear garden, driveway, garage. No onward chain.

Offers Around £199,950

Raglan Road, SMETHWICK,

Spacious first floor maisonette comprising, two bedrooms, reception room, fitted kitchen, bathroom, centrally heated where specified. (110 year lease, ground rent and service costs under £200 per year!)

Offers Around £75,000

Offices at:
12 Abbey Road, Bearwood, B67 5RD 33-35 Cape Hill, Smethwick, B66 4RX

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Modern detached ideal for a growing family

THIS four-bedroomed detached house in Shadymoor Drive, Brierley Hill, is for sale through Your Move at offers over £250,000.

A modern style property having the benefit of a double garage, the gas central heated and double glazed accommodation comprises to the ground floor of an entrance hallway, a WC, a lounge, a dining room and a kitchen.

Upstairs there is a landing, master bedroom with en suite shower room, three further bedrooms and a house bathroom.

There is a rear garden, driveway parking and a double garage.

For further information contact Your Move on 01384 455000 or go online to visit the www.your-move.co.uk website.

Family home is in a popular area of town

IN a popular residential area, near amenities in Stourbridge town centre, 7 Wenlock Road, Stourbridge, is for sale through Humberstone Homes at £179,950.

The well-proportioned detached family home comprises an entrance hall, lounge/diner with a feature flame-effect fire and patio door to the garden, a kitchen with built-in electric oven, gas hob and cooker hood. Upstairs is bedroom one with fitted wardrobes, two further bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom.

There is a front garden with driveway to the garage, a rear garden with a patio, lawn, borders and shed. Contact Humberstone Homes on 0121 4221188 or visit www.humberstonehomes.co.uk

TOM GILES & CO

Oldbury 0121 552 6171

team

NEW
OLDBURY

DOUGLAS ROAD
A traditional semi-detached house in need of general improvement and updating comprising porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room. Double glazing, central heating, off-road parking and garden to rear. EPC Rating TBC
Offers in the region of £109,950

NEW
OLDBURY

ETHEL STREET
An opportunity to acquire a well presented end terraced property comprising front sitting room, lobby, rear sitting room, kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, two bedrooms. Central heating, double glazing, established garden at rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E.
Offers in the region of £99,950

NEW
OLDBURY

TOWER ROAD
A traditional semi detached family home needing full refurbishment and modernisation comprising hall entrance, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom.Part double glazing, side garage off road parking front & rear gardens. **CASH PURCHASERS ONLY.** EPC Rating G
Asking Price: £89,950

OLDBURY

TITFORD ROAD
An opportunity to acquire a mixed Residential and Commercial premises comprising of detached family residence known as 'Providence Cottage' together with yard, detached stores/offices and a garage workshop currently trading as B&A Autos Motor Engineer. Residential property has three reception rooms, three bedrooms, utility/storage, kitchen, bathroom, outside W.C., central heating, double glazing. EPC Rating E
Offers in excess of £325,000

OLDBURY

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD
Traditional semi-detached family residence in need of general updating and decoration. Reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, lobby, downstairs toilet, side verandah, three bedrooms, bathroom, boarded loft, central heating, double glazing, garage and parking, garden to rear. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £189,950

REDUCED
OLDBURY

TAYLOR WAY
A detached family residence built approximately 13 years ago by Bellway Homes. Entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, ensuite shower and family bathroom, central heating, double glazing, garage and parking, rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £179,950

REDUCED
TIVIDALE

DUDLEY ROAD WEST
Detached family home of individual design comprising porch, entrance hall, kitchen, lobby, downstairs toilet, lounge, conservatory, three bedrooms, ensuite shower and family bathroom. Central heating, off-road parking and garage. Large private rear garden. INTERNAL INSPECTION RECOMMENDED. EPC Rating E
Offers in the region of £179,950

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SMETHWICK

DEVONSHIRE ROAD
Traditional semi-detached house situated in a corner position. Reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility/verandah, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, double glazing, gas central heating. Detached garage and additional parking. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £159,950

OLDBURY

FARM ROAD
A fully modernised and improved mid-terraced property. Side entrance into hall, two reception rooms, lobby, kitchen area, bathroom, staircase to first floor landing, three bedrooms, central heating, double glazing where specified, garden to rear. EPC Rating E
Offers in the region of £99,950

OLDBURY

THE PINEWAYS
Deceptively spacious ground floor flat offering an ideal investment opportunity or first time purchase comprising Lounge, store cupboard, kitchen, hallway, airing cupboard, bathroom, two bedrooms. Central heating and double glazing, private rear garden and residents parking. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £69,950

OLDBURY

LANGLEY MEDE, CROSSWELLS ROAD
Ground floor flat offering spacious accommodation and situated in a convenient location an ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity, we are pleased to offer this . Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms, airing cupboard, bathroom. Gardens to front and side. Rear parking. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £64,950

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Bilston Road, Tipton

- Traditional Detached Bungalow
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Reception Hall
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

Monins Avenue, Tipton

- Modern 3 Storey Semi Detached Town House
- Beautiful Canal Views
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- 3 Bedrooms ● en suite, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing:

Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich

- Traditional Extended Semi Detached
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Extended To Rear ● Viewing Recommended
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £134,950
Viewing:

Park Lane East, Tipton

- First Floor Flat
- Viewing Recommended
- Superb Accommodation
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £69,950
Viewing:

William Barrows Way, Tipton

- Modern 2.5 Storey Detached
- Large Family Accommodation
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 5 Bedrooms ● 2 En suites, EPC B

OFFERS AROUND: £230,000
Viewing:

Darbys Way, Tipton

- Modern 3 Storey Semi Detached Town House
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Spacious Family Accommodation
- 4 Bedrooms ● 2 en suites, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £160,000
Viewing:

Ridgeway Road, Tipton

- purpose built first floor flat
- upvc double glazing
- gas central heating
- 1 Bedroom, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £45,000
Viewing:

Turton Road, West Bromwich

- Spacious Semi Detached
- UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Reception Hall
- EPC TBC, Lounge & Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing:

Cambridge Street, West Bromwich

- Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- , Ground Floor Bathromm

OFFERS AROUND: £95,000
Viewing:

Adelaide Avenue, West Bromwich

- Extended Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- , Garage to Rear

OFFERS AROUND: £137,000
Viewing:

Shrubbery Avenue, Tipton

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Occupying A Good Size Plot
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £126,500
Viewing:

Cinder Way, Wednesbury

- Modern End Town House
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge & Kitchen
- EPC Rating - D, First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

Bilston Road, Wednesbury

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- First Floor Bathroom
- , Lounge & Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £90,000
Viewing:

Trouse Lane, Wednesbury

- Upper Floor Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Spacious Lounge
- EPC Rating - D, Breakfast Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £49,950
Viewing:

Leacroft Grove, West Bromwich

- Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway
- , Garage

Offers over: £155,000
Viewing:

Bridle Grove, West Bromwich

- Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms

OFFERS AROUND: £285,000
Viewing:

St Christopher Close, West Bromwich

- Refurbished Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Gazing and Central Heating, Kitchen/Diner

OFFERS AROUND: £190,000
Viewing:

Longcroft Avenue, Wednesbury

- Modern Style Detached Residence
- Three Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Contemporary Style Kitchen
- EPC Rating - D, Through Lounge Incorporating

OFFERS AROUND: £185,000
Viewing:

St. Peter Croft, Wednesbury

- Modern Style Detached Residence
- Master Bedroom With En-Suite
- Two Further Bedrooms
- EPC Rating: D, Lounge & Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: £188,950
Viewing:

St. Christopher Drive, Wednesbury

- Exceptional Detached Family Residence
- Three Double Bedrooms (two En-Suites)
- Family Bathroom & Ground Floor WC
- EPC Rating: C, Spacious Lounge & Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: £215,000
Viewing:

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ESTATE AGENTS

NEW

6 LONDONDERRY LANE, SMETHWICK

- Semi-detached family home
- Gas centrally heated andPVC double glazed
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Refitted & extended kitchen
- Off-street parking
- Possible further extension to the side, subject to planning
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge & dining room
- Side garage
- Inspection to be appreciated
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £159,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

32 MARSHALL ROAD, OLDBURY

- Double fronted semi-detached
- Virtually PVC double glazed
- Spacious lounge
- Conservatory
- Beautifully presented garden
- ENERGY RATING : D
- Gas centrally heated
- 3 bedrooms & fully tiled shower room
- Excellent kitchen/diner
- Downstairs WC
- Off-street parking

OFFERS BASED ON £189,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

2 PERRY COURT OLDBURY

- Ground floor warden controlled flat
- Two bedrooms and shower/wet room
- Lounge and kitchen
- Well heated throughout
- Allocated & visitors parking
- Communal gardens
- Neighbourhood shopping centre
- ENERGY RATING : C

PURCHASE PRICE £64,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

9 BOWLING GREEN DRIVE,

- MODERN FIRST FLOOR FLAT
- GAS CENTRALLY HEATED
- PVC DOUBLE GLAZED
- DOUBLE BEDROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- OPEN PLAN LOUNGE/KITCHEN
- GARAGE & OFF-ROAD PARKING
- IDEAL FTBS
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £104,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

231 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented
- PVC double glazed
- Lounge and dining room
- Off road parking 3/4 cars
- ENERGY RATING : D
- Gas centrally heated
- 3 bedroom & bathroom
- Kitchen
- SIMPLY MUST BE SEEN

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

102 POPLAR ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Mid-terraced property
- PVC double glazed
- Vestibule & hallway
- Kitchen & utility
- Off-street parking at rear
- Gas centrally heated
- 3 beds & first floor bathroom
- Lounge & dining room
- Downstairs bathroom
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £179,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

191 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Well presented semi-detached
- Through lounge/dining room
- Off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : E
- Three bedrooms and Fully tiled bathroom
- Refitted kitchen
- Inspection to be appreciated

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

33 WILSON ROAD, OLDBURY

- Immaculate semi-detached
- Walking distance Woods
- Potential for extensions
- 3 bedrooms & bathroom
- Fully boarded loft
- Through lounge/dining room and Refitted kitchen
- Beautifully presented garden
- Off-street parking 2 cars
- SIMPLY MUST BE SEEN
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £195,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

158 BEECHES ROAD, OLDBURY

- FREEHOLD END TOWN HOUSE
- GAS CENTRALLY HEATED
- VIRTUALLY DOUBLE GLAZED T/OUT
- 3 BEDROOMS & BATHROOM
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
- OFF-STREET PARKING
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £106,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

65 LIGHTWOODS HILL, BEARWOOD

- Freehold Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms and Bathroom to 1st floor
- Three reception rooms
- Conservatory and Study
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Side garage and Neatly laid out gardens
- Off-street parking to the front
- Ideal family accommodation
- Viewing to to be appreciated
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £325,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

142 ST. PAULS ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Modern freehold semi-detached residence
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Six bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite
- Fully tiled family bathroom
- Inter-communicating lounge/dining room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Side garage and off-street parking
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : C
- STAR BUY

OFFERS BASED ON £200,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

8 MILTON COURT, BEARWOOD

- Located in Bearwood providing easy access to Birmingham City Centre
- Warden controlled ground floor flat for the over 55's
- Leasehold ground floor flat
- 1 Bedroom, lounge, kitchen and bathroom
- Communal gardens
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £55,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

126 ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Fantastic refurbished home Close Warley Woods
- 3 bedrooms
- Superbly presented bathroom
- Through lounge/ dining room
- Excellent refitted kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out rear garden
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £179,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

PRICES from £59,000

PERRY COURT

1 BEDROOMED RETIREMENT FLATS FOR SALE

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ESTATE AGENTS
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78 LIGHTWOODS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Prominent location
- Recently refurbished (2015)
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen & Utility
- INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £135,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

8 WEST HEATH ROAD, WINSON GREEN

- Traditional freehold terraced
- Two double bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

91 DURHAM ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

- Ideal first buy
- Two Bedrooms
- Gas centrally heated
- Double Glazed
- Freehold
- Open Plan Lounge/kitchen
- Off street Parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £85,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

17 MARRIOTT ROAD, SMETHWICK

- A modern freehold semi-detached property
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom to the first floor
- Lounge and Open plan kitchen/breakfast room
- Conservatory
- Gardens to front and rear
- Ideal for first time buyers
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON 99,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

£ Guess The Price??

.....And sell your home for FREE!!

All the above properties were amongst many sold by Derek Spires Estate Agents during the month of August.

Instruct us to the sale of your property during October and you can enter the "Guess the Price" competition.

**At the end of October when the "no commission sale" price will be awarded to the vendor who has estimated a figure closest to the actual total sale price.

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NEW

ST KENELMS ROAD, ROMSLEY

UPDATED semi-detached home with NO UPWARD CHAIN in VILLAGE location. REFITTED kitchen diner leading to lounge. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom with white suite on 1st floor. DRIVEWAY to front. NEW carpets throughout. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D

QUINTON **£209,995**

NEW

DUDLEY ROAD, HALESOWEN

EXTENDED & SPACIOUS 3/4 bed family home. SPACIOUS lounge with conservatory off, LARGE kitchen/diner and study/play room/bedroom 4. 3 beds & REFITTED bathroom on first floor. GARAGE & driveway to front and gardens to rear. GCH, UPVC DBG. EPC rating: D

QUINTON **£199,950**

MUST BE VIEWED

MARSHALL STREET, SMETHWICK

EXTREMELY SPACIOUS, modern semi detached, offering flexible living accommodation, with double glazing, gas radiator heating, Entrance hall (with downstairs wc off), delightful lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 5 BEDROOMS (originally 6), MASTER WITH SHOWER ROOM EN-SUITE, bathroom, GARAGE, rear garden. EPC C.

BEARWOOD **£199,950**

MUST BE VIEWED

FRANKLEY AVENUE, HALESOWEN

●●● OPEN DAY - Saturday 24th October 10 - 11am ●●● EXTENDED semi-detached home with DRIVEWAY in CUL-DE-SAC position. NO UPWARD CHAIN. L-shaped large lounge diner & REFITTED kitchen. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom. Part GARAGE & parking to the front. Lawn garden to rear. GCH & DG fitted. EPC rating: C Ref: D1624

QUINTON **£169,950**

NEW

UPPER MEADOW RD, QUINTON

EXTENDED home with DRIVEWAY to front. 16ft FITTED breakfast kitchen to rear, cloaks room & 25ft lounge diner. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 bedrooms with FITTED furniture on 1st floor. Lawn garden to rear with patio. GCH & predominantly UPVC DG. EPC rating: E

QUINTON **£169,950**

MUST BE VIEWED

ST KATHERINES ROAD, OLDBURY

WELL PRESENTED & EXTENDED home in cul-de-sac location. 25ft lounge diner & REFITTED kitchen. Utility area & office with store room. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms. DRIVEWAY & southerly facing rear garden. GCH & majority UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D

BEARWOOD **£149,950**

NEW

THOMPSON ROAD, SMETHWICK

Deceptively spacious, thoughtfully improved intermediate terraced property, convenient position, with double glazing, gas radiator heating, having attractive lounge, re-fitted breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D.

BEARWOOD **£129,950**

MUST BE VIEWED

THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK

Deceptively spacious, semi detached property, conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing, with Porch, entrance hall, spacious through lounge, kitchen, lobby (downstairs wc off), 3 BEDS, bathroom, separate wc, good sized rear garden. EPC E.

BEARWOOD **£118,950**

NEW PRICE

FRANCIS ROAD, SMETHWICK

SPACIOUS, 2 DOUBLE bed end terraced property, conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having majority DG,CEntrance vestibule, attractive lounge, breakfast kitchen, D/S WC, UPSTAIRS bathroom, and pleasant well maintained rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC F.

BEARWOOD **£115,000**

NEW

DAVENTRY GROVE, QUINTON

Located in TREE LINED CUL-DE-SAC on the top floor. 21ft lounge diner & REFITTED kitchen. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom & REFITTED WC. UPVC glazing & gas central heating fitted. EPC rating: D

QUINTON **£99,950**

NEW PRICE

PARK MEWS, SMETHWICK

An opportunity to acquire a DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS, MODERN, ground floor flat occupying a pleasant position within this convenient neighbourhood, with DOUBLE GLAZING, GAS RADIATOR HEATING, and offering 2 beds.. EPC tbc.

BEARWOOD **£89,995**

NEW

MILTON COURT, SMETHWICK

Spacious RETIREMENT FLAT, convenient for BEARWOOD TOWN CENTRE, with pleasant OUTLOOK OVER COMMUNAL GARDEN, approached via communal entrance and having spacious lounge, kitchen 2 BEDROOMS, bathroom, communal residents lounge, PLEASANT COMMUNAL GARDEN, communal parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D.

BEARWOOD **£69,950**

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Well-presented family semi with neat garden

STANDING back from the roadside, this gorgeous three-bedroomed semi in Marshall Road, Oldbury features off-street parking.

It is for sale through Derek Spires at £189,950.

It has a porch, an entrance hall with staircase off, a lounge, an excellent kitchen/diner with modern white units, a lobby, a WC, a conservatory with ceramic floor tiling.

There are three bedrooms and a fully tiled contemporary shower room.

Contact Derek Spires on 0121 4204646 or visit the website www.derekspiresandco.com

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JAMES WATT STREET, B71 2AH

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Front & Rear Gardens
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£129,950

BURFORD CLOSE, WS5 4HL

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Freehold, No Upward Chain

£134,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- Paved Driveway
- Freehold, EPC RATING C

£109,950

DURHAM DRIVE, B71 1HS

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Freehold, EPC TBC

£107,500

CHURCH VALE, B71 4DD

- An Impressive Semi Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- Freehold, EPC RATING E

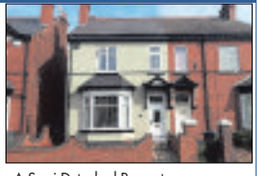
£299,950

SQUIRES WALK, WS10 9DB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Sought After Location
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Garage & Driveway
- Freehold, EPC Rating D

£239,950

CHURCH VALE, B71 4DR



- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Utility/Storage Area, Freehold

£219,950

HONEYSUCKLE DRIVE, WS5 4RH

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- Freehold, EPC RATING D

£209,950

CHURCH VALE, B71 4DJ

- A Refurbished Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Driveway For Four Cars
- Freehold, EPC TBC

£204,950

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3RB

- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- Central Heating, Conservatory
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

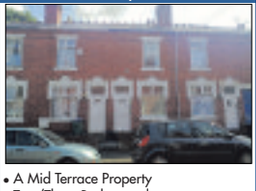
£184,950

CROCKFORD ROAD, B71 2ES

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- No Upward Chain
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£120,000

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF



- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
- EPC RATING F, Freehold

£99,950

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CHARLEMONT ROAD, B71 3HU

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING B, Freehold

£187,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£99,950

HILLARY AVENUE, WS10 0HE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Lounge, Off Road Parking
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£124,950

LYNDHURST ROAD, B71 3JE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating

£155,000

HEMBS CRESCENT, B43 5DG

- An Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Driveway, Garage
- Freehold, No Upward Chain

£160,000

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3QU

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Central Heating
- Freehold

£169,950

SMITHMOOR CRESCENT, B71 3EZ

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Garage
- Freehold, No Upward Chain

£109,950

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SKITTS
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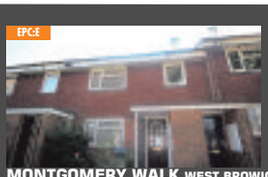
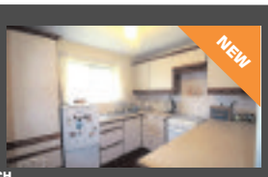
EPC: D
AUCTION

CARISBROOKE ROAD WEDNESBURY
- TWO/THREE BEDROOM HOUSE
- LOUNGE
- DINING KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING

-AUCTION- STARTING BIDS £67,000


EPC:E

MONTGOMERY WALK WEST BROWICH
- ONE/TWO BED FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT
- DOUBLE GLAZED, WARM AIR HEATED
- IDEAL INVESTMENT/ FTB
- WALKING DISTANCE TO TOWN CENTRE


NEW

- CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION
- CLOSE TO SANDWELL GENERAL HOSPITAL
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£69,950

EPC: D
NEW

BROOKSIDE WEDNESBURY
- SUPERBLY PRESENTED APARTMENT
- TWO BEDROOMS
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- DESIGNATED PARKING

£84,950

EPC:E

BERKSHIRE CRESCENT WEDNESBURY
- TWO BED SEMI DETACHED
- QUIET LOCATON
- THROUGH LOUNGE
- DOUBLE GLAZING

NEW

- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- DETACHED GARAGE
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£99,950

EPC:D

COLES LANE WEST BROMWICH
- THREE BEDROOM END TOWN HOUSE
- REQUIRES MODERNISATION
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONDENSING CENTRAL HEATING

NEW

- DOUBLE GLAZING
- LARGE REAR GARDEN
- GARAGE TO REAR (DILAPIDATED)
- VACANT POSSESSION

£109,950

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EPC: D

MEETING STREET WEDNESBURY
- TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- EN SUITE TO BEDROOM ONE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE

£84,995

EPC: C

OXFORD STREET WEDNESBURY
- THREE BED SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE & KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- DRIVEWAY, GARAGE & NO CHAIN

OFFERS OVER £110,000

EPC: D

BASSETT ROAD WEDNESBURY
- EXTENDED END TOWN HOUSE
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE/LARGE DINING KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING

£112,995

EPC: D

STAFFORD ROAD WEDNESBURY
- END TERRACE IN POPULAR LOCATION
- THREE WELL PROPORTIONED BEDROOMS
- STUNNING THROUGH LOUNGE/DINER
- KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES

£124,950

EPC: E

PARKDALE AVENUE WEDNESBURY
- THREE BED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- CONSERVATORY
- GROUND FLOOR SHOWER ROOM

£149,995

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N.B. ALL DETAILS BASED ON WEDNESBURY SALES AGENTS AND CORRECT ON RIGHTMOVE AS OF 6th OCTOBER 2015

EPC: E

LYNTON AVENUE WEST MIDLANDS
- TWO BEDROOM END OF TERRACE
- STARTER HOME OR INVESTMENT PROPERTY
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- VACANT POSSESSION

£99,950

epc: D

WARNER ROAD WEDNESBURY
- TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- IDEAL STARTER HOME
- WC FACILITY
- CENTRAL HEATING

£110,000

EPC: C

OXFORD STREET WEDNESBURY
- SMARTLY REFURBISHED SEMI
- THREE EXCELLENT BEDROOMS
- CUL DE SAC LOCATION
- CONDENSING CENTRAL HEATING

£114,950

EPC: B

CRAMP HILL DARLASTON
- MODERN THREE STOREY SEMI
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- QUIET LOCATION CLOSE TO VILLAGE CENTER
- EN SUITE

£139,950

EPC: D

WESTMORE WAY WEDNESBURY
- FIVE BEDROOM DETACHED
- CUL DE SAC LOCATION
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN

£229,950

Deceptively spacious home

A DETACHED home over three storeys in Highfield Crescent, Rowley Regis is deceptively spacious.

It comes with a self-contained apartment to the lower floor and a large rear garden. It is for sale through Connells at £289,950. It has a porch, hall, kitchen/diner, lounge, main bedroom with en suite, two further bedrooms, and a modern family bathroom. On the lower ground level is an inner hallway, a reception room, bedroom four with patio doors to the rear, a kitchenette, shower room, storage room and a rear garden and a garage. Contact Connells on 0121 5506465 or visit www.connells.co.uk

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Astbury Avenue, Smethwick
Traditional Style End Terrace, Substantial Corner Plot Location, Easy Access To Local Schools, Excellent Potential To Extend Subject To Planning Permission. EPC - E
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Lounge, Dining Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens To Three Sides
- Garage, Off Road Parking
- IN NEED OF MODERNISATION
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £129,950

Penstock Drive, Oldbury
Most Charming Modern Style Two Bedroomed Terrace, Popular Residential Development, Ideal First Time Purchase. Viewing Essential. EPC - C
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W/C
- Two Bedrooms
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £124,950

Aldridge Road, Oldbury
Spacious Two Bedroomed Traditional Style Semi, Walking Distance To Local Amenities & Local Schools. Ideal First Time Purchase EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Through Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Separate W/C
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- NO CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £109,950

Ashwood Close, Oldbury
Superbly Appointed Extremely Spacious Modern Style Third Floor Apartment, In Excellent Order Throughout, Viewing Highly Recommended. EPC - C
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Good Sized Bedrooms
- Plus Large Dressing Area
- Bathroom
- Allocated Parking Space

Offers In The Region Of £88,000

Bunns Lane, Dudley
Well Presented Two Bedroomed Traditional Style Semi, Easy Access To Local Amenities, M5/M6 Motorway Networks. Ideal First Time Purchase. EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Upstairs Bathroom
- Rear Garden, Off Road Parking
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £79,950

Johnson Grove, Oldbury
Stunning Most Impressive Refurbished Two Bedroomed Bungalow, In Excellent Order Throughout, Situated In This Popular & Sought After Location. EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen With Appliances
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Re-Fitted Bathroom With Shower
- Driveway Providing Off Road Parking
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Viewing Essential

TO LET: £625 PCM

Great Arthur Street, Smethwick
Spacious Traditional Style Three Bedroomed Terrace, Easy Access To M5/M6 Motorway Networks, Ideal First Time Purchase. EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL

Offers In The Region Of £119,950

Sabell Road, Smethwick
Well Presented And Extremely Spacious Three Bedroomed Traditional Style Terrace, Walking Distance To Local Smethwick High Street Amenities. EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Through Lounge/Dining Area
- Fitted Kitchen With Oven & Hob
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £104,950

Barker Street, Oldbury
Spacious Traditional Style Four Bedroomed Corner Property, Easy Access To Local Amenities & Local Schools, In Need Of Updating However Offering Excellent Potential. EPC - E
- Gas Central Heating (not tested)
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Dining Kitchen, Utility Room
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Four Bedrooms
- Rear Courtyard
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £99,950

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West Bromwich
St. Christopher Close
- Three bed detached
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Centrally heated
- Convenient to the M5 (J1)
- Dining room area
- Bathroom with shower

£675pcm

Wednesbury
Hydes Road
- Recently redecorated
- Three bed semi
- Gas CH & D/Glazed
- Utility room
- Fully fitted kitchen with cooker
- Bathroom with bath and shower facilities

£625pcm

Tipton
Hellier Avenue
- Three bed detached
- Close to Dudley Port train station
- Gas CH & D/Glazed
- Fitted kitchen with integrated oven

£625pcm

Tipton
Hellier Avenue
- Two bed semi
- Unfurnished
- Central heated throughout
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Conservatory
- Rear garden

£575pcm

Wednesbury
Darby Road
- Three bedrooms
- Fitted kitchen with oven
- Separate dining room
- Bathroom with shower
- Rear garden
- Must be viewed!

£550pcm

Tipton
Thunderbolt Way
- Ground floor apartment
- D/Glazed & Centrally heated
- Breakfast kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower
- Allocated car parking space

£475pcm

Tipton
Gough Drive
- One bedroom first floor apartment
- Kitchen with integrated cooker
- Bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- Bathroom with bath and shower facilities

£425pcm

Tipton
Oak Close
- One bed first floor flat
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath and shower facilities
- Spacious double bedroom

£375pcm

Dudley
Attingham Drive
- Four bed detached house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Spacious lounge
- Open plan fully fitted kitchen
- Utility room

£750pcm

Willenhall
Devon Road
- Three bed semi
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Fitted dining kitchen
- Unfurnished
- Rear garden

£525pcm

Willenhall
Kinver Avenue
- Three bed semi
- Off road parking
- Private gardens
- Centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Dining kitchen

£525pcm

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Offers in the Region Of £300,000

Bear Lane,Henley-In-Arden
- Two Bedroomed Apartment
- Open Plan Living Area
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Underfloor Heating
- Integral Appliances

Offers in Excess of £235,000

Doulton Road,Rowley Regis
- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Downstairs W.C.
- Living Room

OIRO £219,950

James Watt Street,West Bromwich
- Semi-detached
- Porch
- Two reception rooms
- Extended kitchen/diner
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom

OIRO £169,950

Arlington Road,West Bromwich
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- POPULAR LOCATION
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- EXTENDED KITCHEN/DINER

Offers in Excess of £165,000

Comberford Drive,Wednesbury
- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- UTILITY ROOM

OIRO £155,000

Bull Lane,West Bromwich
- Four Bedroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Down Stairs W.C.
- Off Road parking
- Semi Detached House

Offers in the Region Of £150,000

Park Street,Wednesbury
- SEMI DETACHED HOME
- POPULAR LOCATION
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- UTILITY ROOM

OIRO £145,000

Wolverhampton Road,Oldbury
- PENTHOUSE APARTMENT
- POPULAR GATED COMMUNITY
- GREAT ASPECT
- CLOSE TO AMENITIES
- LOUNGE/DINER
- FITTED KITCHEN

Offers in Excess of £135,000

Remembrance Road,Wednesbury
- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- FITTED KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- FITTED BATHROOM
- THREE BEDROOMS

Offers in Excess of £129,950

Tewkesbury Road,Birmingham
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception rooms
- Downstairs W.C.
- Rear Garden
- Close to local amenities
- Ideal Investment or First Time Buyer

OIRO £125,000

Old Park Road,Wednesbury
- Terraced
- Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom

Offers in Excess of £124,950

Leacroft Grove,West Bromwich
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- CUL DE SAC LOCATION
- SEMI DETACHED
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- KITCHEN/DINER
- THREE BEDROOMS

Offers in Excess of £120,000

Carrington Road,Wednesbury
- MID TERRACED HOUSE
- ENTRANCE HALL
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- THREE BEDROOMS
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING

Offers in Excess of £90,000

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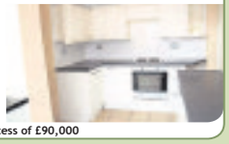
Queen Street,Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating



Offers in Excess of £90,000

Dagger Lane,West Bromwich
- HIGH DECEPTIVE
- TRADITIONAL MID TERRACED
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- DOWNSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER

Offers in the Region Of £179,950

Stanley Road,Wednesbury
- SEMI DETACHED HOME
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- FITTED KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM

OIRO £153,000

Pitchwood Close,Wednesbury
- Terraced Property
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- Three Story
- Three Bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner

£136,000

Smith Avenue,Wednesbury
- Semi detached
- Entrance porch
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Fitted bathroom

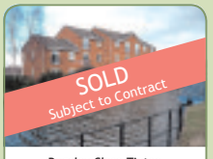
£95,000

Holyhead Road,Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- TWO BEDROOMS
- ENSUITE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN

£87,950

Booth Street,Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FULLY FITTED KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN
- SECURE REAR PARKING

Offers in Excess of £84,000



Rugeley Close,Tipton
- FIRST FLOOR
- ONE BEDROOM
- TIPTON AREA
- PERFECT FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS
- LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN

£59,950

Whitehall Road,West Bromwich
- Well Presented Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ample Storage
- Communal Gardens
- Ideal Investment
- Ground Floor

£74,995

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Great Barr,West Midlands
- Two Bedroom Maisonate
- Fitted Kitchen
- Rear Garden
- Lounge
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Wesley Grove,Wednesbury
- Three bedroom Semi detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central heating
- Front and Rear gardens
- Recently Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Bloomfield Road,Tipton
- Two Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS CONSIDERED

Monthly Rental Of £450

Dudley Port,Tipton
- Two Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Central Location
- Gas central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

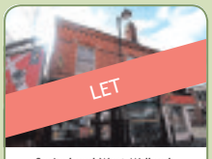
Monthly Rental Of £375

Lowe Avenue,Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Close to St Thomas More School
- DHSS CONSIDERD

Monthly Rental Of £450

,West Midlands
- Two Bedrooms
- Ground Floor
- Off Road Parking
- Secured Entrance
- Close To Darlaston Centre
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £400



Springhead,West Midlands
- One Bedroom Split level Flat
- Off Road Parking
- Close to amenities
- Fitted Kitchen
- Perfect first Home
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£350

Gordon Avenue,West Bromwich
- Three Bedrooms
- Front and Rear Garden
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £615

Damson Wharf,Tipton
- Three Bedroom Three Storey House
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Utility Room
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £595

Navigation Lane,West Bromwich
- Two Bedrooms
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Popular Location
- SORRY NO DHSS

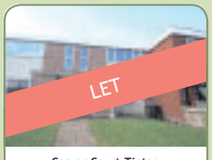
Monthly Rental Of £565

Birmingham Street,
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Garden
- DHSS Considered

Monthly Rental Of £525

GOODCHILDS AWARDED ANOTHER GOLD FOR LETTING AGENT OF THE YEAR 2015...

...IT'S NOT LUCK WHEN YOU WIN EVERY YEAR



Carver Court,Tipton
- First Floor One Bedroom Flat
- Off Road Parking To Rear
- Electric Heater
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £350

Florian Grove,Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- Fitted Kitchen
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £495

The Avenue,Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms First Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Myvod Road,Wednesbury
- One Bedrooms Ground Floor Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking
- Newly Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £425

Hanover Road,Rowley Regis
- Two Bedrooms
- Large Lounge
- Laminate Flooring
- Bathroom
- Modern Kitchen
- DHSS ACCEPTED

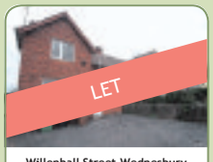
Monthly Rental Of £395

Jasmine Way,Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Integral Garage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Utility and Downstairs WC
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £600

Woden Road North,Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached House
- Located Near A School
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Rear Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

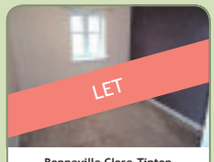


Willenhall Street,Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Large Rear Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £575

Brunswick Park Road,Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Terrace House
- Double Glazing
- New fitted Kitchen
- Large Garden
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £495



Bonneville Close,Tipton
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- GREAT ASPECT
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- TWO BEDROOMS

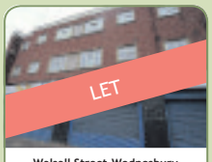
Monthly Rental Of £475

Vauxhall Road,Birmingham
- ONE BEDROOM FLAT
- GROUND FLOOR
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- BATHROOM
- KITCHEN

Monthly Rental Of £475

THE AVENUE,Darlaston
- Two Bedroom Second floor
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Designated Parking
- Double Glazing and Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS
-

Monthly Rental Of £450



Walsall Street,Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Secured Accses
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £400

Manifold Way,Wednesbury
- One Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £375

Wiley Road South,Wednesbury
- One Bedroom Apartment
- New Build Ground Floor
- Communal Entrance
- Hallway
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower Over

Monthly Rental Of £400

Warren Close,Tipton
- Two Bedroom Maisonete
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Street Parking
- Fully Furnished
- SORRY NO DHSS

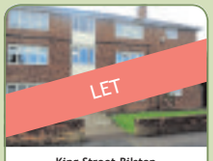
Monthly Rental Of £395

Phoenix Rise,Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Double Glazing
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- MUST SEE!
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £350

Elwell Street,Wednesbury
- First Floor One Bedroom Maisonette
- Double Glazing
- Gas central Heating
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Perfect First Home
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £375



King Street,Bilston
- Two Bedroomed Upper Floor Flat
- Spacious Throughout
- Modern Kitchen and Bathrooms
- Popular Location
- DHSS Considered
- Call Today!

Monthly Rental Of £375

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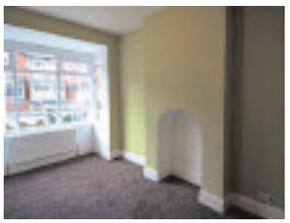
NEW



Arden Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Mid Terraced
- Recently Refurbished (2015)
- Stunning Modern Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating G

Offers in the Region of £129,950

NEW

Sabell Road, Smethwick

- Well Presented Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Close to Local Amenities
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £97,500

NEW

Lightwoods Road, Bearwood

- Most Attractive Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen and Bathroom
- Period Features
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £194,950

NEW

Milton Court, Sandon Road, Smethwick

- Attractive Retirement Apartment
- Situated on the First Floor
- One Double Bedroom
- Residents Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £54,950

NOW AVAILABLE

Trinder Road, Smethwick

- Beautifully Presented Semi
- Three Bedrooms
- Dining Kitchen
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £139,950

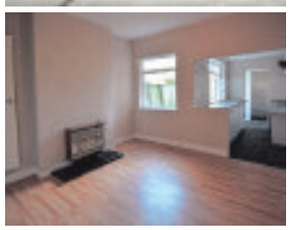
NEW PRICE

Thuree Road, Smethwick

- Charming, Extended Family Home
- Close to Warley Woods
- Four Bedrooms
- En Suite Shower Room
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £259,950

NEW PRICE



St. Marys Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £139,950

NEW PRICE

Devon Road, Bearwood

- Generously Sized Victorian Residence
- Three Floors of Accommodation
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £359,950

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Help to Buy

Eden Valley exterior

CGI of Harvills Grange exterior

Limited plots left for 2015

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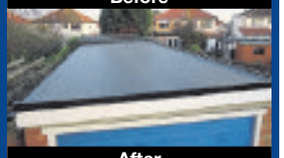

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2 Leisure Time

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10am - 12 noon
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To book a stall call 07903 754123.

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St Luke's Church
Elwell Street
Wednesbury
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Saturday, October 24 at 11am
Admission 20p.

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3 Home & Services

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4 Pets & Animals

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

equestrian corner

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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8 Motoring

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£1,250 ono.
07849 528962.

FORD KA, 2003, 34,000 miles, 1.3 petrol, blue, MoT, CD, good condition, great for first car, low mileage for age, £1,150 ono. 01785 712747.

NISSAN MICRA 1.0, 1998, very good condition, 11 months MoT, £650. 01922 448350.

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cars over £1500

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2008, 55,000 miles, silver, long MoT, excellent condition, 1 lady owner, fsh.
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Packages start from as little as
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public & legal notices

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SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/15/58624	Staircraft Limited	Former Arco Limited Johnsons Bridge Road West Bromwich B71 1DG	Proposed change of use from class B8 (Storage and Distribution) to B2 (General Industry).

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Kelvin Way, West Bromwich) (Temporary One-Way Operation No.2) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Kelvin Way, West Bromwich between Bromford Lane and the entrance to the Bethel Covention Centre other than in a north westerly direction. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 31/10/15, effective from 24/10/15. Alternative route for south easterly bound vehicles via Bromford Lane, Bromford Road, Oldbury Ringway, Birmingham Road, Oldbury Road and Spon Lane South. Purpose - to excavate and repair a defect on the oil pipeline - Mainline Pipelines/ Fisher German.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (High Street, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure No.2) Order 2015 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding via High Street, Cradley Heath from Prince Street to Queen Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 30/10/15 effective from 22/10/15. Traffic will be diverted via Newtown Lane, Foxoak Street, St Anne's Road and vice-versa. Purpose - continuing gas mains

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

An application for a Premises Licence has been made by Yesmar Restaurants Ltd., to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council in respect of premises known as McDonald's Restaurant which are situated at All Saints Way, West Bromwich B71 1RG.

The proposed application is as follows:

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2300 hrs - 0700 hrs

A record of the application may be inspected at Trading Standards and Licensing Section, Unit 33 Coneygree Road, Tipton, DY4 8XR during normal office hours Monday to Friday.

Any representations by interested parties or responsible authorities regarding the application must be made in writing to: Trading Standards & Licensing, Homes & Communities Directorate, Sandwell Council House, PO Box 2372, Oldbury B69 3BS.

Date: 31st October 2015

It is an offence, liable on summary conviction to a fine up to Level 5 (£5000) on the standard scale, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

EXPERT SVO LIMITED
(Company Number SC371654)

Notice is hereby given, per Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at FRP Advisory LLP, 2nd Floor, 170 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2HB, on 4 November 2015, at 11.00 am for the purposes of receiving the Directors' Statement of Affairs, appointing the Joint Liquidators and electing a Liquidation committee. Creditors can attend the meeting in person and vote. Creditors are entitled to vote if they have submitted a claim and the claim has been accepted in whole or in part. If you cannot attend, or do not wish to attend, but wish to vote at the meeting, you can either nominate a person to attend on your behalf, or you may nominate the chairman of the meeting, who will be the Director of the Company, to vote on your behalf. Proxies can be submitted in advance or at the Creditors' meeting. A form of proxy is available. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at the offices of FRP Advisory LLP, 2nd Floor, 170 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2HB, between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days prior to the meeting. The resolutions at the creditors' meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Joint Liquidators are to be paid. The meeting may receive information about, or be asked to approve, the costs of preparing the Statement of Affairs and convening the meeting. A resolution is passed when the majority in value of those voting, in person or by proxy, have voted in favour of it. Further details contact: Daniel Donnelly, Tel: 0121 710 1695.
Leslie Coles, Director
Dated: 14 October 2015

JOYCE HARVEY
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Veronica House Nursing Home 1 Leabrook Road Ocker Hill Tipton DY4 0DX (previously of 30 Sycamore Road Wednesbury West Midlands WS10 0BG), who died on 18/07/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 24/12/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Executors of the Estate of the late Joyce Harvey
Valerie Elizabeth Danks and
Karen Joyce Harvey
6 Cedar Road Wednesbury WS10 0BD T454287

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Cross Street, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015 intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding via Cross Street, Smethwick. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 20/11/15 effective from 20/11/15. Traffic will be diverted via Buttress Way, Hill Street, New Street, Tollhouse Way and vice-versa. Purpose – removal and replacement of telecoms pole.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Station Road, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015 intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along that stretch of Station Road, Cradley Heath beneath rail over road bridge No.27 and 10m either side of it. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 23/11/15 effective from 23/11/15 (10.00hrs – 04.00hrs). Traffic will be diverted via Coombs Road, Haden Hill Road, Halesowen Road, Beauty Bank and vice-versa. Purpose – repair steelwork on railway bridge.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (New Street, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015 intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding via New Street, Smethwick from Soho Way to the centre of the junction at Rabone Lane/ Hill Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 22/11/15 effective from 21/11/15. Traffic will be diverted via Buttress Way, Soho Way, Tollhouse Way, Rolfe Street and vice-versa. Purpose – cut off a water supply to No.2 New Street.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Lewisham Road/Bridge Street North/ Downing Street, Smethwick) (Temporary Closure of Junction) Order 2015 intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding via the junction of Lewisham Road/Bridge Street North/ Downing Street, Smethwick. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 08/11/15 effective from 06/11/15. Traffic will be diverted via Rolfe Street, North Western Road, Brasshouse Lane, Lewisham Road and vice-versa, and Cornwall Road, Rabone Lane, Rolfe Street and vice-versa. Purpose – installation of new signalised junction.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Spouthouse Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015 intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding via Spouthouse Lane, Great Barr between West Road and Appleton Avenue. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 09/11/15 effective from 09/11/15. Traffic will be diverted via Old Walsall Road, Hamstead Road and vice-versa. Purpose – removal of vegetation in the vicinity of the aqueduct.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Victoria Road and Manor Road, Oldbury) (Temporary One-Way and Road Closures) Order 2015 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along the listed roads in Oldbury as follows: 1) Victoria Road – vehicles will be prohibited from travelling via Victoria Road between Apollo Road and Cemetery Road other than in a south easterly direction (anticipated dates 2nd – 21st November 2015); 2) Victoria Road – Cemetery Road to Basons Lane (November/ December 2015 as and when required); 3) Manor Road – Basons Lane – Francis Road (November/December 2015 as and when required). The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 19/12/15, effective from 12/11/15. Traffic will be diverted as follows: a) for Victoria Road one-way via Apollo Road, Birch Street, Parker Street and Cemetery Road; b) for Victoria Road closure via Cemetery Road, Vicarage Road, Warley Road, Basons Lane and vice-versa; c) for Manor Road via Basons Lane, Warley Road, Londonderry Lane and vice-versa. Purpose – installation of traffic calming measures by Sandwell Council.

10 Personals

personal

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Honest car comes with reasonable price tag

By John Griffiths

Kia is a car maker which has come a long way in a relatively short time – and has now pressed the 'go' pedal again by bursting into a new sector of the market.

Yes, Kia has gone sporty with a new range of cars based on its popular cee'd, and powered by a new and highly efficient range of engines. But it hasn't gone over the top by abandoning its core values of value and keeping ownership costs down.

The new pro_cee'd includes a sharply-styled version, the GT Line, with attractive coupe styling and something extra under the bonnet to attractive new buyers without breaking the bank. While it shares many of the styling and technological features of the 200bhp flagship pro_cee'd GT, it comes with a lower price, insurance, fuel and taxation costs.

The 'standard' cee'd has proven itself as a family-friendly hatchback and a value for money rival to the likes of the Ford Focus. But the car also showed itself to have track day credentials with its regular appearances as the 'reasonably priced car' driven by various stars on BBC's Top Gear series.

The pro_ceed GT Line's sporting good looks and high specification can only add to its street credibility, and its new petrol and diesel engine options are well up to the task.

The 1.0 litre petrol turbo in the test car can only be described as a gem: don't be surprised if it turns up elsewhere in the Kia range before long. It's also the lowest priced version of the GT Line range, at £19,720.

Kia isn't the first car maker to turbocharger a small engine, of course: you get a car capable of more performance when you need it but better economy and lower CO2 emissions in normal driving, particularly around town.

The figures speak for themselves – 0 to 60mph in 10.7 seconds and an official average of 57.6mpg with C02 emissions of 118g/km for the 118bhp version (there's also a lower rated 98bhp option which is slightly more economical).

To put that into context, the higher-rated Kia has around 50 per cent more oomph than a typical, normally-aspirated one litre car, and with 171Nm of torque it has nearly twice the pulling power, too. And, of course, it's bigger, with more passenger and cargo space than such rivals.

Satisfying

This impacts on the way the car drives, too. It has more get up and go at lower engine speeds, with no need to rev hard between gears or find yourself getting bogged down on the exit to corners. It's more relaxed and more satisfying, giving the feel of a bigger petrol or diesel engine while keeping small car economy.

It shares suspension and steering upgrades wtth the rest of the cee'd range and is the same size as the familiar five-door cee'd, but is noticeably lower and the 'B' pillar has been moved back, allowing for significantly wider doors to allow for easier access to the rear seats.

It's a competent car to drive, with well-weighted steering, a slick six-speed gearbox and efficient brakes, A relaxing experience in a comfortable, well-equipped cabin. Aerodynamic and mechanical improvements included in the redesign mean it's quieter, too.

You'll soon spot a pro_cee'd on the road: not only because of its three-door coupe lines but the four 'ice cube' style LED sidelights in their sculpted black housing are particularly distinctive. Daytime running lights, bespoke 17-inch alloys, a twin exhaust and side sill extensions add to the car's sporting flavour, with black trim highlighted by silver stitching plus some high-gloss and chrome finishes.

Air conditioning and a cooled glovebox are standard across the range, with a seven-inch touch screen on the centre console for satnav and traffic messaging system. There is also a new audio and connectivity system, with an iPod/MP3 compatible, six-speaker DAB radio, Bluetooth and, on higher spec models, music streaming. All versions are fitted with safety features such as stability control and hill start assist, six airbags, speed sensitive autolocking, split/fold rear seats, electric front windows and door mirrors.

The new pro_cee'd range also has a new 1.6 litre turbodiesel option with power up from 126 to 134bhp and a wider band of torque. Official fuel average for the manual gearbox version is 74.3mpg with a tax-busting 99g/km of CO2 emissions. This version also comes with the option of a seven-speed dual clutch automatic gearbox, with figures of 67.3mpg and 109g/km.

Other power options include a 1.4, 98bhp petrol engine in the eight-model pro_cee'd line-up.

Kia has won many friends with its reputation for providing the motoring public with honest cars at reasonable prices. The pro_cee'd range is an extension of that: cars offering sporty good looks with new, highly efficient engines offering performance without paying a heavy price in running costs.

The Gt Line 1.0 turbo tested comes with an insurance rating of group 12 and all models come with Kia's seven-year, 100,000 mile warranty.

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 22, 2015

New SUV is looking right on the money

By John Griffiths

SsangYong isn't the best-known name on Britain's roads, but its latest model may be about to win the car maker new friends.

The Double Dragons brand, which has been making 4x4s for years, has dipped its toes into a new sector of the market with the Tivoli, a value-for-money entry into the burgeoning B-segment SUV market.

It's a growth sector across the world and particularly in western Europe with new models such as the Mazda CX-3 and the Fiat 500X joining the scramble for sales this year.

Smaller than the company's revamped Korando, it shares its bigger brother's core philosophy: offering a high specification, economical SUV at a price where rival ranges start.

You can buy a Tivoli, depending on trim and your choice of petrol or diesel option, from between £12,950 and £19,500. At present there are only two-wheel drive versions in the UK, but the 4x4 models will be here by the end of the year.

The test car was the well-equipped ELX manual, powered by a punchy yet economical 1.6-litre diesel. This new engine turns out 115PS of power and a hefty (for its size) 300Nm of torque, all of which is available from just 1,500rpm.

It's a lot for a B-segment sized car, so pulls strongly almost from the word go and all the way through the gears.

Appeal

It's vital statistics are 0 to 62mph in under 12 seconds, an average of almost 66mpg and a low 113g/km CO2 rating – the sort of figures to appeal to potential buyers looking for a new SUV whose running costs won't break the bank.

It is the only thing 'cheap' about the Tivoli tested, as its interior has a classy, upmarket feel and is certainly well equipped despite the price tag.

It starts with a pair of supportive and comfortable leather sports-style seats for the driver and front passenger, with enough room in the back that even six-footers won't feel cramped – the Tivoli is one of the widest cars in its class. The D-shaped sports steering wheel is leather clad and heated, adding to the premium feel.

The trim appears well-finished, particularly around the centre console and controls, and includes a seven-inch touch screen with satnav, often an extra on some of its competitors. The screen also doubles as the reversing camera screen and control centre for the six-speaker audio system, with its RDS radio plus Bluetooth and iPod connectivity.

Dual-zone climate control, automatic headlamps and wipers, heated front seats, front and rear parking sensors and cruise control are among the items which help to elevate the Tivoli up a class or two in value-for-money terms.

SsangYong has taken a slightly different road to some of its rivals, too: instead of looking like a bigger, taller version of a family hatchback, it does actually look like a modern 4x4. You still get all the advantages of a commanding view and a seat hip height which makes access easy.

On the ELX the 18in diamond cut wheels may not be ideal for off-roading (you wouldn't want to risk scuffs and scratches), but they certainly look the part in the high street, especially with the big 215/45 tyres.

Rigid

Safety is well-catered for, beginning with its rigid monocoque construction which also means light weight and translates into sure, precise handling.

Plus there are seven airbags and the now standard features such as stability, emergency brake and hill start assist systems are supplemented by an active rollover protection system, speed-sensitive automatic door locking and hazard warning lights, which automatically activate if you have to do an emergency stop. The brakes are discs all round (ventilated at the front) with four-channel ABS.

The boot space of 423 litres is large for the class, and naturally split-fold rear seats add flexibility for different passenger/cargo combinations.

The 1.6 diesel gives plenty of relaxed performance for most drivers (especially if you're economy minded) but there is the option of a 1.6-litre petrol powerplant with 128PS of power which has a CO2 rating 149g/km with the 'stop/go' system. A six-speed manual gearbox is standard, but a six-speed auto is available as an option.

The diesel engine in the test car is brand new, and SsangYong engineers have put a lot of effort into optimum power delivery in the mid ranges while also minimising noise. Indeed, it doesn't get raucous even when approaching the rev limit, although in practice that's not really something you need to do.

It combines style with more traditional, businesslike 4x4 looks, an efficient new engine range and excellent economy.

But when it comes to money, there are few rivals who offer the same levels of luxury and equipment for the price.

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Popular Juke gets an update

Nissan's Juke has sold like hot cakes and the latest update keeps the design extreme but adds smarter technology, cleaner engines and more personalisation options.

By most accepted rules of vehicle marketing, this shouldn't happen. For a car with as divisive a look as the Nissan Juke to rack up such huge sales would suggest that those who love it really love it.

There's a choice of two powerplants. The 1.2-litre DIG-T petrol engine, developed in conjunction with partners Renault features turbocharging and direct injection to deliver 115PS and 190Nm of torque. Despite its modest size, this 1197cc turbo four packs a real punch, offering sharper acceleration and greater torque than the old 1.6-litre naturally-aspirated motor.

The popular 1.6 DIG-T turbo petrol unit delivers lower end torque below 2,000rpm. Producing 190PS, this is available in both front and all-wheel drive versions. Go for an all-wheel drive variant and you have the option to specify the Xtronic transmission gearbox, which further improves fuel efficiency and acceleration.

The Juke's elevated stance but diminutive overall length doesn't promise a stellar driving experience, but within a few yards you'll realise that this is a fun car to hustle about. Nissan Dynamic Control helps here; an advanced driver control system giving the choice of three different driving modes, Normal, Sport or Eco, along with instant driving information and vehicle setting controls. The torque vectoring system on the latest all-wheel drive model incorporates technology that Nissan initially used to such devastating effect on their GT-R supercar-slayer.

At the front, the upper lamps have been redesigned and now incorporate bi-intensity LED daytime running lamps, while the headlamps have Xenon bulbs for better visibility. Door mirrors get LED indicators and, where fitted, cameras for the Around View Monitor. Bumpers, tail lights, alloy wheels and available colours have all been tweaked. The Sunlight Yellow metallic is sure to be popular with those who resolutely refuse to blend in. Nissan also offers coloured inserts which can be applied to the mirror caps, side sills, roof spoiler and door handles in order to further personalise the exterior.

Perspective

Rival manufacturers were left scratching their heads when Nissan started selling Jukes from around £13,000. To put into perspective quite how good the value proposition is here, consider the fact that you can now buy a 1.2-litre turbocharged Juke for less than the price of a 1.0-litre normally-aspirated Ford Fiesta.

It's not as if the Juke is lacking in equipment either. Standard on all models are LED daytime running lamps, CD radio with an AUX-in socket, gear-shift indicator and a tyre pressure monitor.

The Visia 1.5 dCi and 1.6-litre DIG-T versions add alloy wheels, manual air conditioning, a drive computer and driver seat height adjustment. Go for the Acenta trim and you receive front fog lights, 17in alloy wheels, automatic air conditioning, remote audio controls, Bluetooth connectivity for phone and audio streaming, cruise control and a speed limiter, along with the Nissan Dynamic Control System and chrome interior touches. It's no wonder this model has proven so popular.

Tekna models add power folding door mirrors, light and rain sensors, the 'i-Key with Start/Stop' package and the latest NissanConnect with rear-view parking/reversing camera, Around View Monitor and Safety Shield. NissanConnect now offers smartphone connectivity through a 5.8in colour touch screen. The sat nav system integrates with Google to give information that ranges from weather forecasts to the location of fuel stations, hotels, restaurants and other points of interest.

A clever send-to-car function also allows drivers to search for their destination on their PC at home, then send destination instructions to their car's NissanConnect system at the click of a button. The set-up includes Bluetooth audio streaming and mobile phone integration, as well as AUX-in and USB slots.

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Minibus fits bill on city streets and open roads

By John Griffiths

A big nine-seater minibus with a mere 1.6 litres under the bonnet – just a few years ago the idea would have been almost laughable.

But the new Renault Trafic Passenger is a graphic illustration of how far the motor industry has come on fuel efficiency: smaller, cleaner but still powerful engines which are better for the environment as well as the operator's pockets.

In fact over its 35 year life and successive modifications, the 1.6 diesel (in single and twin turbo versions, with a range of outputs) had become the standard, compared to the 2.5 and later 2.0 litre units which previously provided the motive power.

The test version, in Business specification, was powered by the 115Ps turbo diesel, the middle of the three options, also produces 300Nm of torque, much of it available from engine speeds barely above tickover.

Commercial

With its six-speed gearbox, it's equally at home on city streets or open roads, and whether you have just the driver on board or a full complement of nine adults seems to make little difference.

This, after all, a minibus but it's based on a commercial vehicle chassis and drivetrain capable of carrying much heavier loads – some 1,239kg in this 115Ps, standard wheebase version.

In passenger guise, the 115 Trafic SWB is capable of averaging 43.5mpg, according to official figures, with 170g/km of Co2.

Other options now include the latest twin turbo dCi power plants, with 125Ps and 145Ps respectively, which offer more power and torque but are leaner and cleaner, too, meeting the latest EU6b emissions regulations.

The nine seats are set in three rows of three, the second and third rows of which are easily removable without the use of tools which adds flexibility to the vehicle for business users who only occasionally need to transport customers or employees.

Access is via large sliding doors on either side, with the second row seat on the nearside folding forward to make access easier to the third row. All the seats have head restraints and three-point seatbelts.

The driver has a commanding view, not only in front but all round thanks to the large passenger windows and big, commercial vehicle style wing mirrors which are electrically adjustable.

The tall seat has height and lumbar support adjustment. and you get a fold-down armrest, too.

The steering is light and the braking system (discs all round with ABS) is progressive and effective – not too sharp that it will upset your passengers.

Slick

The short gear level, mounted on a pod in the centre console, has a slick, easy action but the handbrake - mounted on the floor – is a bit of a reach.

Fortunately that's not much of an issue in everyday driving as the hill start assist system is so effective even with a full complement of passengers that reaching for the lever is more seeking comfort than a real need.

The standard wheelbase version has a turning circle of under 12 metres, so it isn't difficult to manoeuvre around town and in car parks, particularly with such an excellent all round view.

Aerodynamic and sound-deadening measures have made the latest Trafic range quieter, which is just as important to a working vehicle as a purely passenger one.

It comes with electric windows, a whole raft of cabin storage areas, and new technology in the form of a DAB digital radio, Bluetooth and USB connectivity.

Like its commercial cousin, the Passenger is also fitted with safety systems including stability and traction control, plus a anti-trailer swing system if you need to tow.

Higher grade vehicles also come with the benefit of features such as air conditioning, cruise control, parking sensors, satnav, alloy wheels and automatic headlights.

Gas-filled struts make light work of opening the large – full width and height – rear cargo door, with a flat load floor at just about knee height to store cases and bags behind the third row seats.

Operators of the long wheelbase version get enough space there to take a large family and all their luggage on a fortnight's holiday.

There are lots of storage spaces, including cupholders, neatly placed within the driver's reach.

Prices start from £26,780 for the SWB 95dCi model rising to £32,335 for the top specification Sport version, with long wheelbase body and the latest 145Ps twin turbo engine.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 28.0 – 70.6 (10.1 – 4.0), Extra Urban 45.6 – 85.6 (6.2 – 3.3), Combined 36.7 – 78.5 (7.7 – 3.6). CO_2 emissions 179 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the new Kia cee'd 'GT-Line' 1.0 ecoTurbo: Urban 45.6 (6.2), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 57.6 (4.9). CO_2 emissions are 115 g/km; for the Venga 1.6 Automatic '3' Spec (6 Speed) Urban 32.8 (8.6), Extra Urban 54.3 (5.2), Combined 43.4 (6.5). CO_2 emissions are 150 g/km.

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Tourer practicality but sport car look

By Ian Donaldson

We'll never know how close the new Subaru came to being called the Galuto, Acolin or Cyting before the company decided on Levorg.

It's a mix of the words Legacy (a well respected existing car from Subaru), Revolution and Touring. So the other three work just as well.

Beneath this unusual moniker sits a car that might have been designed especially for a limited number of potential car buyers, all of them deeply wedded to Subaru's design ethos.

So the Levorg features three features bound up with the very idea of a modern Subaru, all items that the select band of Subaru faithful find essential in the car of their dreams.

They are, from the front, an engine whose four cylinders sit flat to the ground, unlike the tall block of oiliness usually found under a bonnet. This puts the weight closer to the road and the car ought to attack corners with less lean in the process.

Then – back a little – we come to the front wheels. Which in the Levorg's case are given the same amount of power to transmit as the pair at the back.

Yes, it's permanent four-wheel drive, another Subaru article of faith and the saviour of many a country vet on a wet, slippery road deep in a Yorkshire dale.

And, sitting behind that lie-flat engine is a gearbox without any gears, or more accurately, only one, which varies itself as you push the throttle harder. That, theoretically at least, ought to mean the engine is always performing at its most economical. We'll see.

Holding all the mechanical bits together is an estate car body that has more space inside for people and luggage than the last Legacy Tourer. Subaru reckons it has the 'imposing presence of a sports car with the practicality of a tourer', which is pushing it a bit. To these eyes the Levorg looks like a sensible estate car with a big bonnet scoop hinting at a rally-filled past.

If you think all of the above marks Subaru out as a company that ploughs its own furrow, you'd be right. It expects to sell a modest 500 Levorgs in a full year in the UK and you can bet there are that number of potential buyers for whom this car – and no other – fits the bill precisely.

Once the decision is taken that it's going to be new Levorg on the drive, there is little else to consider, except the colour. The car comes with but a single choice of equipment (thankfully, there's a lot of it) and in just three metallic colours – grey, white or blue.

Rivals – the Volvo V60 and Mazda6 estate are mentioned by Subaru – offer lots more choice (diesels, front drive only and manual gearboxes, for instance) but that is never the point with a Subaru. Owners love them for their individuality.

They will also like the Levorg for its kit count, which includes LED headlights, 18 inch alloy wheels, keyless access, leather seats (heated in the front), navigation with a big touchscreen, dual zone air conditioning and a rear parking camera.

Out on a mix of scenic Yorkshire roads, the Levorg's new turbocharged 1.6 litre petrol engine felt stronger than its quoted 168bhp and the CVT transmission avoided the soaring revs that used to mark keen use of similar systems.

In fact, on the right (smoothish) surface the Levorg cracks along with enthusiasm. Rougher roads produced an unwelcome pattering from the wheels but the car never felt less than welded to the road. We didn't try for the claimed 130mph top speed or 0-62mph dash in 8.9 seconds.

The test car showed 31mpg on its clear trip computer after a morning's work; not a bad return, if inevitably shy of the official 39.8mpg. The car's 164g/km CO2 output attracts £180 annual road tax.

Like every Subaru in living memory, there is an indestructible feel about an interior that looks well ordered if a bit plain and obviously meant to do the business for years and years.

Jones rescues point in dying seconds

Wyrley 2 Team Dudley 2

NATHAN Jones headed in an equaliser with 30 seconds remaining as Team Dudley secured a draw in West Midlands Division One.

The hosts opened the scoring after nine minutes when Alex Henry set up Alex Scott to score.

The equaliser came 20 minutes in as Ryan Spittle drove the ball into the corner of the net.

On 57 minutes Wyrley had their lead back as another cross into the box undid Dudley and Henry knocked the ball past keeper Kyle Green in the process.

But Jones struck from a Lee Clarke cross as the students denied the home side a win.

Just past the hour mark Nathan Jones ran through one-on-one but saw his effort saved from Andy Aston.

Wyrley will feel they had chances too with Hayden Hughes firing over from inside the 18 yard box.

Jordan Holmes, a tall striker was causing issues for TD until captain James Hawthorne decided to pick him up and ensure the newbie wouldn't have it easy.

Liam Jones came into the game with 20 minutes left as Marc Lawrence came off with a groin injury.

Jones moved into the left back role pushing Alex Pinches forward into left wing.

Ryan Steadman also entered the field for an impressive Reece Bancroft in an attempt to try something different in the Team Dudley attack.

Jones managed to get himself booked.

That free kick brought the best out of Kyle Green, the young goalkeeper got across his goal to push the shot around his post.

With 83 gone it was nearly a leveller for TD as Nathan Jones managed to round the keeper but his ball across the face of goal couldn't find a finishing touchRyan Spittle was then deniedby a save off that as TD tried turning the screw.

Lee Clarkenicked the ball, turned and crossed it onto the head of Nathan Jones who arrived right on time to get Dudley a much needed point.

Tim finds positive in face of defeat

Chelsea 2 Villa 0

BOSS Tim Sherwood saw reasons to be positive despite Villa falling to a defeat at Chelsea.

Sherwood's side have now lost seven of their nine Premier League matches this season and remain in the bottom three.

A poor Brad Guzan clearance led to Diego Costa's opener and Alan Hutton deflected the ball in for Chelsea's second.

"It was encouraging at points in the game," said Sherwood. "We dominated the game in the first period without opening them up too many times. We have had a few chances.

"They have had none except the one we gifted them. It was an uphill struggle after that.

"There were positives. We have come to the Bridge and matched them.

"We haven't sat back and tried to dig in and nick something.

"Unfortunately we didn't have that cutting edge which you're going to need to win football matches. But it's onwards and upwards now."

Costa returned from suspension to score one and force another as the Premier League champions won 2-0 and their fans sang "We are staying up" – something which cannot be said with any certainty of Sherwood's Villa.

Nuisance

Costa was a nuisance against Arsenal, his most recent match, but scarcely needed to be against Villa, who were responsible for their own undoing.

Guzan's woeful clearance and Joleon Lescott's poor control allowed Willian to nick in before he centred and Costa netted his third of the season.

If Chelsea had not had much luck to date, as Mourinho has said, they received more good fortune when a Costa shot looped in off Alan Hutton to complete the victory. Villa were just the visitors Chelsea were hoping for in the midst of their crisis, having had one win in 13 prior league games at Stamford Bridge while conceding 30 times in the previous eight visits.

They were equally as accommodating on this occasion after an open start when they looked as likely as Chelsea to score.

Ruben Loftus-Cheek fluffed one pass for Costa and saw a deflected shot bobble wide.

Hutton next benefited from a slip by Baba Rahman, whose first league start was hardly memorable, before firing into the feet of Asmir Begovic.

Villa's best chance fell to Rudy Gestede, who scooped Jordan Ayew's cross over with the outside of his right boot.

Guzan had looked uncertain with the ball at his feet and Willian reacted quickest when the goalkeeper's pass put Lescott under pressure. It was a simple finish for Costa. The striker next wanted a penalty when charging through between Kieran Richardson and Lescott, but referee Roger East ignored his appeal.

Nemanja Matic was sent on at half-time for Loftus-Cheek and lasted longer than the 28 minutes he did against Southampton.

Cesc Fabregas was pushed further forwards and played a diagonal pass to Costa, who ran at Micah Richards and Hutton before a shot ricocheted in off the Scot.

Chelsea's Diego Costa, left, celebrates after scoring his side's first goal against Villa

New coach is looking to bring edge to Albion

ALBION'S new first-team coach Ben Garner said he wants to help give the Baggies an attacking edge to add to their defensive solidity.

The 35-year-old, who joined at the end of last week, helped Crystal Palace establish themselves as a Premier League club, and now he wants to push Albion further up the league.

"With Tony you will always have a strong platform," said Garner. "The level of detail he puts into team is excellent, bar none. Here we want to build from that platform, develop the attacking side of the game and be a threat.

"If you're going to go to that next level you need to develop the players you've got but also build on it and add to it. You can't stand still in the Premier League." A fractured ankle at 18 put paid to Garner's careerand so he started doing his coaching badges.

Starting with the U11s and working his way through, he was made first team coach at Palace during their 2012/13 season.

He added: "I'd worked with Tony at Palace, I got on well with him — we have similar principles and values as people.

"I spoke to him quite early on after I left Palace and he was keen to bring me in. It was great to be back on the pitch."

Although Albion have started slowly this season, especially at home, Garner believes there is potential at The Hawthorns and one day he wants the top job somewhere.

"It's about improving and finding consistency," he said. "We need to keep getting better, small goals, getting points on the table."

Sacking Tim 'would be a huge mistake'

VILLA assistant boss Ray Wilkins has said it would be a huge mistake for the club to sack Tim Sherwood.

Villa sources rejected claims Sherwood has been given just two games to save his job, after owner Randy Lerner held a meeting with senior club officials in the United States.

Former Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers and Real Sociedad manager David Moyes have both been linked with the role should the axe fall .

Wilkins has urged the club to stick with the man who guided the club to safety and the FA Cup final last season.

"I think it would be a huge mistake, as far as Tim's concerned, because he's an up-and-coming manager. He did extremely well at Tottenham, and let's not forget, it was only six or seven months ago we were in the FA Cup final."

Villa and Albion fans pay least for tickets

ALBION and Villa supporters continue to pay some of the cheapest ticket prices in the Premier League, according to the BBC's annual price of football study.

The results of the study, released last night, also reveal Wolves to offer some of the best value in the Championship, despite the most expensive season ticket at Molineux costing more than that at The Hawthorns. Villa have the highest-priced season ticket in the region at £615 but their cheapest, at £335, is among the lowest on offer in the Premier League.

Albion supporters pay a minimum of £399 for a season ticket, an increase of £50 on last season, though the study found the majority of season tickets at The Hawthorns are purchased at a cheaper price than those at Villa Park.

At £535, Wolves' dearest season ticket is £26 more expensive than that of their Black Country rivals, though the cheapest season ticket

at Molineux is among the best priced in the Championship at £299.

The study revealed Walsall's prices remain among the cheapest in League One, while Kidderminster Harriers' 'Aggborough Pie' continues to be the most expensive in English football, priced at £4.50.

On a national level, the West Midlands is among the cheapest places to watch Premier League football in the country.

Arsenal have the most expensive season ticket, with supporters paying a minimum of £1,014 to watch the campaign at the Emirates.

Reading sell the cheapest season ticket in the Championship at just £135, while Fulham, who charge up to £829, has the dearest.

Villa is now a laughing stock, says Collymore

FORMER Villa star Stan Collymore has launched a blistering attack on his old club after being sacked from his match day programme column.

The former striker, who grew up in Cannock, says he has been shown the door by the Villa Park hierarchy after weighing in to support under-fire boss Tim Sherwood and criticism of the club on his radio show.

The 44-year-old said:"I've been notified by the club that they no longer wish me to continue due to my support of Tim Sherwood and fierce criticism of the ownership and club structure. "

He added: "On the watch of Mr Lerner, and Tom Fox as chief executive, and Paul Faulkner before him, the club I have supported since childhood has become the laughing stock of the Premier League."

Villa declined to comment.

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Jones' late goal rescues point
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Boss is positive despite loss
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Stone take the spoils from Tipton

Stone Old Alleynians 4 Tipton 2

BOTTOM club Tipton put up a battling display in a 4-2 West Midlands Premier defeat at Stone Old Alleynians.

The home side went ahead in the seventh minute when Ben Lewes latched on to a half-clearance.

Tipton began to work their way back into the game with Alex Taffe and Matt Weyman causing concern for the hosts.

And their efforts were rewarded with an equaliser on 36 minutes when Jon Crawford fired home.

Stone were back ahead a minute before the break when Ollie Davies rattled home a splendid volley.

Back came Tipton after half-time and they were level again when Marvin Whitter tucked away Matt Weyman's inviting cross.

Despite the home club's growing confidence Tipton refused to be cowed and Gregg Grey's clever chip in the 25th minute creating alarm in the home penalty area before the ball was expelled at considerable height out of play.

Tipton were coming much more into the picture with Alex Taffe and Matt Weyman both creating some concern for the Stone defence.

Tipton, faring far better than in previous games this season, continued to compete with alacrity - missing so often this season - and on 36 minutes Jon Crawford collected, shimmied and arrowed a delightful and welcome equalizer for the Black Country club. Dan Bellis was proving to be rock-like in the visitor's rearguard time and again heading looming crosses clear.

On 65 minutes Stone went ahead for a third time when Grant Bigham forced the ball home.

Adam Heath made the game safe.

Kirby is taking a sabbatical to give body time to recover

ADAM Kirby has announced plans to take a year out of racing for the 2016 season.

The 20-year-old impressed Birmingham supporters through his dedication of riding through the pain barrier in 2015 but Kirby admits injuries have taken their toll.

"I really think I need to sit next year out, give my body a break from everything it's been through this year and work towards a return in 2017," he said.

"It's been a real hard year – I've damaged my hip, I burnt the skin away on my calf more-or-less right down to the muscle which has caused me a lot of pain, I've just been through the wars and it's just reached that point now.

"I've had a few big accidents this year and I think taking a year out and working on my fitness is going to be the best thing for me in the long run.

"Overall though, I feel quite proud of the fact I was the only Birmingham rider to take my place in every meeting this year – especially with all the crashes I've had. The Birmingham supporters have stuck by me through thick and thin."

We deserved the win, says Rowett

Paul Robinson, left, celebrates. *Pic: Andy Shaw*

Blues 2 QPR 1

Football

BIRMINGHAM manager Gary Rowett believed his side were deserved winners after their victory at home to QPR left them fourth in the Championship.

His team lie below Reading and Middlesbrough only on goal difference after a win in which Paul Robinson and Paul Caddis found the target.

Rowett said: "It is one of the first times we have gone behind and come back to win. We showed a different side to our game and Paul Robinson's equaliser gave us more belief in ourselves."

Rowett certainly had every reason to be pleased with the performance of his veteran defender Robinson, who made only his fifth appearance of the season.

It was the former Albion man who popped up to grab the vital equaliser to cancel out an earlier first-half goal by Matt Phillips.

It really was a milestone occasion for Robinson.

Following two successive home defeats, Blues carved out their well-deserved victory with a 63rd-minute penalty from Caddis which inflicted Rangers' fourth league defeat of the season.

SAIDO STRIKE SCALDS CATS

Albion 1 Sunderland 0

IT'S unfortunate that all the reaction to Albion's first home win of the season has been dominated by James McClean's actions after the final whistle.

Apart from the goal, and the flashes of creativity from surprise starter Stephane Sessegnon, very little happened during the 90 minutes.

Sunderland had two shots on target, both within seconds of each other around the tenth minute, and the Baggies had just the one, Berahino's tap-in from inches out after Costel Pantilimon's gift.

It was a typical Tony Pulis win. A tight, scrappy affair with few chances at either end, little in the way of creativity and won by a single goal.

The only bright spark in a dire first half was Sessegnon, a player Pulis has left in Premier League exile since April 4 when the Baggies were humiliated 4-1 at The Hawthorns by QPR. He beat former Albion full-back Billy Jones as early as the sixth minute, driving into the box and sending in a low cross which Younes Kaboul routinely cleared.

Firing

Then half-way through the first period the Benin international had Albion's first shot of the game, working the ball onto his left foot with a stepover and firing just past the far post.

At the end of the first half he beat Fabio Borini down the wing before skipping around Jones and sending a cross to the back post for McClean, whose header back across goal was just behind Salomon Rondon.

They were half-chances rather than clear-cut opportunities, but give a starving man a crumb and he will thank you profusely.

Everything Albion did well in the opening 45 minutes came through Sessegnon, but the only reason the 31-year-old was playing was because of an injury to James Morrison.

He offered the Baggies something that's been lacking all season, inventiveness and unpredictability.

In fact it was Sunderland who created the best chance in the first half, when Jones forced Boaz Myhill into a brilliant one-handed save in the tenth minute.

Just before that both Gareth McAuley and Jonny Evans had been forced into blocks, but for the rest of the game Sunderland looked as dangerous as their league position would suggest.

Sam Allardyce has got a big job on his hands.

Albion emerged much brighter after half-time but it still took a mistake from Pantilimon to hand them the lead.

Nine minutes after the break McClean drove at his man before back-heeling the ball to his left-back, Chris Brunt, who swung in a cross carrying no real threat. Pantilimon came to catch it, and despite being nine inches taller than Berahino and able to use the reach of those long arms, was so disturbed by the striker that he dropped the ball.

It fell to the floor where the Albion's striker instinctively back-heeled it out of the keeper's grasp before gleefully tapping in his third goal in four games.

The goal seemed to revive Albion and for the next 15 minutes there was a zip to their play.

But when Allardyce brought on Jermain Defoe and Danny Graham, the home side dropped further back, fearful of the new strikers.

Saido Berahino pounces on a mistake by Sunderland keeper Costel Pantilimon to net the only goal

Tividale steel their first away point

Stockbridge PS 1 Tividale 1

TIVIDALE came away from what looked like a difficult away fixture at Stocksbridge Park Steels with a well-deserved point from a single goal each draw.

But both sides had chances to take all three points but neither one could exploit them to the full.

Stocksbridge had the first attempt when a Corey Gregory shot was parried by Tom Turner straight into the path of Scott Ruthven but frustratingly he shot wide.

Tividale took the lead on 13 minutes when they won a free-kick on the edge of the Stocksbridge area.

Mark Danks got two bites of the cherry when he stepped up to take it and although his initial effort was smashed into the wall he calmly controlled the rebound and placed it past Stocksbridge keeper David Reay.

This was the spur for Stocksbridge to take the game to Tividale from the start of the second half.

Five minutes into the second half a Danny Critchlow header which came from a Gregory cross was deflected wide.

However, five minutes later Rory Coleman tried a speculative free-kick that Turner also watched sail wide.

Gregory and Critchlow teamed up again and the latter's header was tipped over the bar by Turner.

Nine minutes from time the home side won a free kick in the same position as Tividale had won theirs in the first half.

But although Turner got a hand to Coleman's tremendous strike the Tividale keeper could not keep it from hitting the back of the net.

Both teams set up goalmouth action in the final minutes but no matter how they tried neither could find a winner.

Extra time goal wins it for Sports

Dudley Sports 2 Malvern 1

MALVERN took an eighth minute lead when Hooper finished off a fine move.

Malvern continued to dominate but could not find away past the impressive Matthew Jones in the Sports goal.

Sports were a different side in the second half and were soon looking to draw level.

The goal eventually came in the 80th minute when Stuart Hillman converted a penalty after Shep Machingauta was brought down.

Both teams went looking for the winner but it was sports who grabbed it through Hillman in extra time.

★★★

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